

SEAL LEAK

LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. special operations SEALs forces who participated in the raid that killed Osama bin Laden were in uniform and wearing nametags during a CIA award ceremony attended by the writer of the film "Zero Dark Thirty," a Pentagon inspector general's report said Friday.



Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y. speaks to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington.
(AP Photo/J.S. Applewhite)

The report, however, omits a number of revelations disclosed in an early draft that was made public more than a week ago, including that then-CIA Director Leon Panetta revealed the name of the raid commander during his speech at the agency's June 2011 event. The unpublished report was first disclosed by the Project on Government Oversight and confirmed by Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., who requested the probe nearly two years. It also no longer includes revelations that the Pentagon's top intelligence official, Michael Vickers, divulged the name of an individual involved in the bin Laden raid to the filmmakers. The report was triggered by questions from a congressional lawmaker about whether U.S. officials leaked classified information to the filmmakers and whether they compromised military tactics and procedures.

Continued on Page 4



Red Flags

Reaction cool to US arms plan for Syrian rebels

Deputy National Security advisor Ben Rhodes arrives for the daily press briefing at the White House in Washington, Friday, June 14, 2013. Rhodes discussed the ongoing conflict in Syria, and previewed the upcoming G8 trip.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration hopes its decision to give lethal aid to Syrian rebels will prompt other nations to increase assistance, now that the U.S. has cited

evidence that the Syrian government used chemical weapons against its people. But the international reaction Friday ranged from flat-out disbelief of the U.S.

intelligence assessments to calls for negotiation before more lethal weapons of any kind pour into the vicious civil war. The administration now says it has "high confi-

dence" that President Bashar Assad's forces have killed up to 150 people with sarin gas.

Continued on Page 2

Less US urgency at G-8 in call for European growth

JIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — When leaders of the nation's biggest economies gathered at the presidential retreat of Camp David last year, European elections had rattled the continent with a rejection of austerity measures. President Barack Obama was himself seeking re-election. The sense of urgency was palpable as Obama made an emphatic pitch for Europe's powers to focus more on economic growth.

These days, as Obama prepares for another summit of the Group of Eight industrial nations next week, the furor has died down. Financial tensions in Europe have eased, high-debt nations have been given more time to work on their fiscal cuts, and even the language has changed from "austerity" to "growth-oriented structural reforms."

"The context of that discussion has changed a lot over the past year," said Caroline Atkinson, a senior White House international economics adviser.

Still, much of the eurozone remains mired in or near recession. Obama's appeals have had mixed results in softening the demands on some of the most debt-ridden European nations to cut their spending.

While the U.S. still wants Europe to temper the debt trimming and increase global demand, Obama is not expected to be as insistent with other G-8 leaders this time as they meet at a luxury hotel and golf resort beside Lough Erne in Northern Ireland's County Fermanagh lakeland.

Moreover, Obama arrives at the G-8 with Syria foremost on his mind. His decision to authorize lethal aid to Syrian rebels inevitably will be front and center during the summit, complicated by the attendance of Russian President Vladimir Putin, one of Syrian President Bashar Assad's most powerful backers.

Obama is scheduled to arrive in Northern Ireland on

Monday and immediately deliver a speech in Belfast largely focused on U.S. support for the peace process there. The global economy

will be the topic of the first meeting with G-8 leaders at the summit site, followed by a one-on-one meeting with Putin.



In this 2012 photo, President Barack Obama, third from left, participates in a luncheon at the G-8 Summit at Camp David, Md. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

After the summit ends, Obama will head to Berlin for meetings with German officials, including Chancellor Angela Merkel. The two will address reporters at a news conference afterward before Obama delivers a speech on the eastern side of the historic Brandenburg Gate. Obama also will be the guest of honor at a reception and dinner hosted by Merkel.

First lady Michelle Obama and daughters Malia and Sasha will accompany the president, and largely keep a separate schedule that includes a stop at

Trinity College in Ireland to explore the president's Irish ancestry.

Administration officials say they believe that they can make a compelling case by using the United States as an example of how to help the economic recovery without deep budget cuts.

The Obama administration responded to the recession with a massive stimulus package in 2009. Officials argue that increased economic activity and a turnaround in the housing industry have helped increase revenues and lower the deficits. □

Reaction cool to US arms plan for Syrian rebels

Continued from Front

Although that's a tiny percentage of the approximately 93,000 killed in the civil war so far, the use of a chemical weapon crosses President Barack Obama's "red line" for escalating U.S. involvement in the conflict and prompted the decision to send arms and ammunition, not just humanitarian aid and defensive non-lethal help like armored vests and night goggles.

The administration's plan heading into the Group of Eight meeting of industrialized nations beginning Monday is to use the chemical weapons announcement and Obama's decision on arms to persuade Russia, Syria's closest ally, to increase pressure on Assad to send a credible negotiating team to Geneva for talks with the opposition.

In addition, Obama is expected to use the G-8 meeting and discussions on the sidelines to further coordinate with the British, French and potentially others an increase of assistance — lethal, non-lethal and humanitarian — to the rebels, the political opposition and refugees.

In a letter to U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice said the United States has determined that sarin was

used in a March 19 attack on the Aleppo suburb of Khan al-Assal and in an April 13 attack on the neighborhood of Shaykh Maqsd.

She said unspecified chemicals, possibly including chemical warfare agents, were used May 14 in an attack on Qasr Abu Samrah and in a May 23 attack on Adra.

Ban, however, voiced op-

be helpful," he said.

U.S. officials have not disclosed any details about the weapons they intend to send to Syria or when and how they will be delivered. According to officials, the U.S. is most likely to provide the rebel fighters with small arms, ammunition, assault rifles and a variety of anti-tank weaponry such as shoulder-fired rocket-propelled grenades

internal administration discussions with reporters.

Obama has consistently said he will not put American troops in Syria, making it less likely the U.S. will provide sophisticated arms or anti-aircraft weapons that would require large-scale training.

Administration officials are also worried about high-powered weapons ending up in the hands of terrorist groups. Hezbollah fighters are among those backing Assad's armed forces, and al-Qaida-linked extremists back the rebellion.

U.S. officials say Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel is about to approve orders that would leave roughly a dozen F-16 fighter jets and a Patriot missile battery in Jordan after ongoing military exercises there end later next week.

That would result in several hundred more U.S. troops staying in Jordan to support the fighters and missiles, in addition to the approximately 250 that have been there for some time. The added military troops and equipment are designed to increase stability in the region and are not part of the effort to train Syrian rebels or take part in any offensive operations in Syria, the U.S. officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk about the details. □



Anti-Syrian regime protesters hold a banner and flash the victory sign during a demonstration in Hass town, Idlib province, northern Syria, Friday, June 14, 2013. The Syrian government on Friday dismissed U.S. charges that it used chemical weapons as "full of lies," accusing President Barack Obama of resorting to fabrications to justify his decision to arm Syrian rebels. The commander of the main rebel umbrella group welcomed the U.S. move.

(AP Photo/Edlib News Network ENN)

position to the U.S. decision to send arms to the Syrian rebels. The U.N. chief said no one can be certain chemical weapons were used without an on-the-ground investigation. Increasing the flow of arms to either side "would not

and other missiles.

As of Friday, however, no final decisions had been made on the details or when it would reach the rebels, according to the officials, who insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss

Judge: Fort Hood suspect's Taliban defense banned

ANGELA K. BROWN

Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP) — A U.S. Army psychiatrist will not be allowed to tell jurors that he gunned down soldiers at a Texas military base to protect the lives of Taliban leaders in Afghanistan, a military judge ruled Friday.

Maj. Nidal Hasan's "defense of others" strategy fails as a matter of law, Col. Tara Osborn said during a 45-minute hearing. That defense strategy means that a killing was necessary to prevent the immediate harm or death of others.

Osborn said no soldiers at Fort Hood posed an immediate threat to anyone in Afghanistan on Nov. 5, 2009, the day of the attack. Hasan, an American-born Muslim, faces the death penalty or life without parole if convicted in the rampage that left 13 dead and nearly three dozen wounded.

Osborn said the legitimacy of the Afghanistan war is not an issue at Hasan's trial, which has not started. She also ordered Hasan not present any evidence or arguments about his claims that deploying U.S. troops posed an immediate threat to Taliban fighters.

Not everyone killed was about to deploy to Afghanistan or elsewhere. Pvt. Francheska Velez, who was pregnant, had just returned from Iraq. Michael Grant Cahill, who tried to stop the gunman with a chair, was a physician assistant who worked in the building.

Hasan asked for a three-month trial delay to prepare for his defense after Osborn last week granted his request to serve as his own attorney. But that delay seems unlikely since Osborn rejected his defense strategy; she has not ruled on his request.

Osborn said last week that Hasan would represent himself unless he changed his mind or disobeyed the court's orders and trial rules. □

Minneapolis:

Nazi unit leader's US life prompts shock

AMY FORLITI

PATRICK CONDON

Associated Press Writers

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The revelation Friday that a former commander of a Nazi SS-led military unit has lived quietly in Minneapolis for the past six decades came as a shock to people who knew him, prompted harsh condemnations from World War II survivors in the U.S. and Europe, and led prosecutors in Poland to say they would investigate.

An Associated Press investigation found that 94-year-old Michael Karkoc served

of a Ukrainian immigrant himself, said he was disturbed by the revelations about his longtime neighbor.

No one answered the door Friday morning at Karkoc's house on a residential street in Minneapolis, where several television news trucks were parked outside. Karkoc had earlier declined to comment on his wartime service when approached by the AP, and repeated efforts to arrange an interview through his son — including again Friday — were unsuccessful.

would provide "every possible assistance" in gathering evidence for the U.S. justice system. The U.S. government has previously used lies in immigration papers to deport dozens of suspected Nazi war criminals. Karkoc's unit was associated with the 1944 Warsaw uprising, in which Nazis brutally suppressed a Polish rebellion against German occupation. Karkoc also lied to American immigration officials to get into the U.S., telling authorities in 1949 that he had performed no military service during the

of the city's downtown, was once a destination for displaced persons from Slavic countries, Ukraine, Poland and other countries in the region. The area has diversified over the years, but is still occupied by the last of those residents along with some of their descendants. Karkoc and his family are longtime members of the St. Michael's and St. George's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, among several Catholic and Orthodox churches in the neighborhood.

"All the time I am here, I know him as a good man, a good citizen," said the Rev. Evhen Kumka, the church's pastor. "He's well known in the congregation."

Kumka moved from Ukraine to Minnesota 19 years ago to lead the congregation, and said Karkoc was already active in the church at that time. Kumka wouldn't say whether he'd spoken to Karkoc about his past, but said he was skeptical.

"I don't think everything is correct," Kumka said. "As I know him, he is a good example for many people." Valentina Yarr of Minneapolis, a former president of the church council, said she had also known Karkoc and members of his family for many years.

"I don't have anything bad to say about him, nor did I ever hear a hint of anything like this," Yarr said. "I'd rather not say anything else."

Karkoc worked as a carpenter in Minneapolis, and appeared in a 1980 issue of Carpenter magazine among a group celebrating 25 years of union membership. He was a member and a secretary in the local branch of the Ukrainian National Association, a fraternal organization, and voting records obtained by the AP show he regularly voted in city, state and general elections.

News of Karkoc's past also prompted anger from World War II survivors overseas, in countries where the Ukrainian Self-Defense Legion was active. □



Gordon Gnasdoskey, a long-time neighbor of Michael Karkoc, 94, sits on his porch in Minneapolis, Minn., Friday, June 14, 2013. Gnasdoskey says he has known Michael Karkoc for many years, and was stunned to learn about the Nazi past of a man he has shared laughs with and known as a churchgoer. Karkoc was a top commander of a Nazi SS-led unit accused of burning villages filled with women and children, lied to American immigration officials to get into the United States and has been living in Minnesota since shortly after World War II, according to evidence uncovered by The Associated Press.

as a top commander in the Ukrainian Self-Defense Legion during World War II. The unit is accused of wartime atrocities, including the burning of villages filled with women and children. Wartime records don't show that Karkoc had a direct hand in war crimes, though records indicate he lied about his military past when immigrating to the U.S.

"I know him personally. We talk, laugh. He takes care of his yard and walks with his wife," his next-door neighbor, Gordon Gnasdoskey, said Friday.

Gnasdoskey, the grandson

Sam Rafowitz, an 88-year-old Jewish resident of the Minneapolis suburb of Minnetonka, grew up in Warsaw, Poland, and spent four years working in concentration camps. He took a hard line after hearing the news about Karkoc.

"I think they should put him on trial," said Rafowitz, who was born near the border of Germany and Poland.

He may get his wish: Poland's National Remembrance Institute, which prosecutes wartime crimes, said its prosecutors would investigate Karkoc's "possible role" in crimes committed by the legion and

war. He became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1959.

In Washington, Justice Department spokesman Michael Passman said the agency was aware of the AP story.

"While we do not confirm or deny the existence of specific investigations, I can say as a general matter that the Department of Justice continues to pursue all credible allegations of participation in World War II Nazi crimes by US citizens and residents," Passman said.

Gnasdoskey said the neighborhood where he and Karkoc live, just northeast

US Report: Troops in bin Laden raid revealed

Continued from Front

But, in contrast to the draft, the final report focuses exclusively on questions of Pentagon involvement in the matter, and refers other concerns to investigators at other federal agencies — likely a reference to the CIA — and additional reviews by the Pentagon inspector general.

The IG report concludes that it did not identify any instances when sensitive special operations tactics or techniques were provided to filmmakers.

But it also found that commandos involved in the raid were readily identifiable during the CIA ceremony.

"We were unable to identify any precautionary measures that were taken to protect the identity of operators that attended this event," the report said. It added that, accord-

ing to a commander at the event, the commandos "were in the front row, front, left side, prominently on display for everybody."



Then-CIA Director Leon Panetta testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington. Several weeks after overseeing the raid that killed Osama bin Laden, then-CIA Director Leon Panetta violated security rules by revealed the name of the raid commander in a speech attended by the writer of the film "Zero Dark Thirty," according to a draft report by Pentagon investigators.

(APPhoto/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

The report found that although a CIA employee told a Pentagon staff mem-

ber several days before the event that the film's screenwriter, Mark Boal, could attend, the CIA hoped to prevent him from being

that information never got to Adm. William McRaven, head of U.S. Special Operations Command, or any other troops at the ceremony.

McRaven told the IG that at the end of the ceremony he was introduced to Boal, and "I was admittedly a little surprised." Another military commander, who was not identified by the report, said McRaven was visibly shocked, and that the military forces at the event tried to stay away from Boal.

The final version of the report, however, was far less expansive than the unpublished draft report, which was first disclosed by the Project on Government Oversight and confirmed by Republican Congressman Peter King, R-New York, who asked for the investigation nearly two years ago.

It did not accuse Panetta of wrongdoing. But the

draft cited two instances when administration officials divulged the names of individuals involved in the bin Laden operation to the filmmakers. The Oscar-winning movie told the story of the decade-long hunt for the al-Qaida leader and the dark-of-night Navy SEALs raid in which he was killed.

The first instance was a July 15, 2011, interview of Vickers by Boal and the film's director, Kathryn Bigelow. In that session Vickers gave them the name of a special operations planner whose identity was supposed to be protected from public release, the report draft said.

The second instance was the ceremony at CIA headquarters in which Panetta identified the ground commander of the SEALs raid, with Boal in the audience. The draft report did not say whether Panetta knew Boal was present. □

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Inspectors probe deck collapse at Miami sports bar



Officials begin their inspection of the outdoor deck that collapsed at Shuckers Bar and Restaurant, Friday, June 14, 2013. The packed outdoor deck behind the popular Miami-area sports bar partially collapsed during the NBA Finals on Thursday night, sending dozens of patrons into the shallow waters of Biscayne Bay. (AP Photo/J Pat Carter)

CURT ANDERSON
Associated Press
NORTH BAY VILLAGE, Florida (AP) — Investigators began examining a twist-

ed pile of concrete, metal and wood on Friday to determine why a waterfront deck at a popular sports bar collapsed into shallow

Biscayne Bay, injuring two dozen people gathered to cheer the Miami Heat in the NBA Finals. Authorities estimated about 100 people were on the deck at Shuckers Bar & Grill when a support on one end apparently gave way, causing the deck to buckle in the middle and drop about 8 feet into the bay. The scene Friday was a tangle of partly submerged green plastic chairs, tables, um-


brellas, and even flip-flops and cell phones lost in the chaos of the night before. "It was a shock," said Martin Torres, 42, who was in South Florida from Los Angeles to board a cruise. "People were yelling. Nobody knew. People came out all wet. They were crying. For a while, nobody knows what's going on." Miami-Dade Fire Chief David Downey said 24 people were taken to area hospi-

tals. Many had cuts and bruises, though one person suffered a fracture. By mid-day Friday, only one person remained hospitalized with unknown injuries. Structural engineer Morgan Villanueva, whose firm contracts with various cities for engineering services, said when he arrived to inspect the debris that it appeared a main support at one end gave way for unknown reasons. □

Jeb Bush: Immigrants 'are more fertile'

Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — The brother of former President George W. Bush told religious conservatives Friday that the future of the U.S. economy depends upon immigrants in part because they "are more fertile" and create more businesses than native-born Americans. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush is thought to be weighing a bid for the Republican presidential nomination in 2016. His remark that immigrants "are more fertile, and they love families" was met with silence by those attending his speech during the Faith and Freedom Coalition's annual conference. A spokesman said that Bush meant that immigrants, Hispanics in particular, have larger families and more children. Bush, whose wife is Mexican, also said immigrants are particularly im-

portant to helping create more taxpayers to fund the safety net for the retiring baby boomer generation. Following painful election losses last year driven by the Hispanic vote, Republican leaders have called on the traditionally conservative opposition party to embrace immigration reform. However, some conservatives have branded the effort "amnesty" and called for rejection of efforts to give immigrants in the U.S. illegally a pathway to citizenship. Foreign-born mothers in the U.S. typically have more children than women born in the United States. The National Center for Health Statistics found that the birth rate for foreign-born women was nearly 50 percent higher. That has been driving population increases in the U.S. non-white population. □



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In Senate:

Complex fight on tap for curbing military sexual assaults

JENNIFER STEINHAUER

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WASHINGTON - When Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan stripped a measure aimed at curbing sexual assault in the military out of a defense bill this week, it was widely seen as a trampling by a long-serving male committee chairman on female lawmakers seeking justice for victims.

But the truth reflects a more complex battle driven by legislative competition, policy differences and the limits of identity politics in a chamber where women's numbers and power are increasing.

The vote to replace the measure offered by Sen. Kirsten E. Gillibrand, D-N.Y., in favor of a more modest

provision pushed by Levin, the Democrat who is chairman of the Armed Services Committee, did not break down along gender lines: of the seven women on the committee, three, including a fellow Democrat, Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri, sided with Levin. "I think all of us need to acknowledge that this isn't a gender issue," said Sen. Deb Fischer, R-Neb., during a recent hearing on the issue.

Nor was it particularly partisan. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas and Sen. David Vitter of Louisiana, two of the most conservative Republicans on the committee, sided with Gillibrand, while seven Democrats and an independent peeled away.

Gillibrand's measure, which she is likely to revive on the Senate floor this fall, would give military prosecutors rather than commanders the power to decide which sexual assault crimes to try, with the goal of increasing the number of people who report crimes without fear of retaliation.

Levin's measure requires a senior military officer to review decisions by commanders who decline to prosecute sexual assault cases. Although his measure would change the current system, it would keep prosecution of sexual assault cases within the chain of command, as the military wants.

Cruz did not buy it. "The data indicates that there



Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.) makes his way back to his office after voting on a defense bill at the Capitol in Washington, June 13, 2013. Levin, who is chairman of the Armed Services Committee, voted to replace a measure offered by Sen. Kirsten E. Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) aimed at curbing sexual assault in the military, a move seen as the trampling of female lawmakers, though three of the seven women on the committee sided with Levin. (Christopher Gregory/The New York Times)

is persistent reluctance to report sexual assault," Cruz said. "Sen. Gillibrand made an effective case." He said he was considering supporting her measure on the Senate floor.

Unlike so many congressional policy battles that end with an empty pot, the search for sexual assault legislation is likely to result in significant policy changes to military laws. All told, more than a dozen sexual assault provisions were approved by the committee this week and are headed for the Senate floor.

Similar measures have been included in the annual House military bill that is expected to pass in that chamber Friday.

The measures include a mandatory review of decisions by commanders not to prosecute sexual assault; making retaliation a crime; and subjecting sex offenders to automatic dishonorable discharges. Commanders would also no longer be able to unilaterally overturn jury convictions.

"What's been lost in all this is that for the first time ever we are going to have strong legislative changes that are going to make a real difference in curbing sexual assault," said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, a co-sponsor of Gillibrand's measure. Collins has tangled for years with military brass over the issue.

"This was a legitimate policy dispute that resulted in significant, meaningful reforms," she said.

A handful of lawmakers from both parties have pursued changes to military law that would combat the problem of sexual assault in the military, to little avail, for years.

But a recent series of events - including startling sexual assault data released by the Defense Department, a spate of high-profile cases and a handful of lawmakers who have perceived that their pursuit of the issue would be politically advantageous - combined to provide a stronger spotlight on the issue. □



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US Financial Front:

IMF: US economy improving but spending cuts a drag

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy is on sounder footing than it was a year ago but is still being restrained by government spending cuts and tax increases, the International Monetary Fund said Friday. The IMF's annual report on the U.S. economy noted that the underlying fundamentals are gradually improving: Home prices and construction are rising, household finances have strengthened and employers are steadily adding jobs. The outlook was much more optimistic than IMF's 2012 report.

"There are signs that the U.S. recovery is gaining ground and becoming more durable," Christine Lagarde, the IMF's managing director, said in a written statement. Still, the IMF forecasts economic growth of just 1.9 percent this year, the same as its April forecast. That would be down from 2.2 percent in 2012. And it's

below many private economists' expectations that the U.S. economy will grow more than 2 percent this year.

organization had opposed the steep federal spending cuts that began on March 1.

The reduction in the U.S.

cuts, the report urged, and replace them with longer-term reductions in entitlement programs, such as Social Security, that would weigh less on the economy. The IMF also expects the Federal Reserve will maintain its bond purchases through the end of the year and will "very gradually" reduce them next year. The bond purchases are intended to lower long-term interest rates and encourage more borrowing, investing and spending. Some economists expect the Fed may begin to reduce its purchases as early as its September meeting. But Lagarde argued that "there is no need to rush," given that unemployment is still high and inflation low. Fed policymakers will meet June 18-19 and may provide some hint of their intentions. Chairman Ben

Bernanke will also hold a press conference after the meeting concludes.

Despite the drag from higher taxes and spending cuts, the IMF paints a much brighter picture of the U.S. economy.

A year ago the IMF warned that the recovery was "tepid," job growth was slow and U.S. households were still cutting debts.

Now, it sees consumers in better shape and the job market slowly strengthening. After the impact of the tax increases and spending cuts fade, growth should accelerate next year to 2.7 percent. That forecast also assumes that Congress and the White House agree to lift the government's borrowing limit later this year. Still, the IMF expects unemployment will fall only gradually over the next two years. □



A home with a real estate sign in front in Watertown, Mass. The U.S. economy is on sounder footing than it was a year ago, citing that home prices and construction are rising, household finances have strengthened and employers are steadily adding jobs.

(AP Photo/Steven Senne)

The IMF says the tax increases and spending cuts that kicked in this year will shave about 1.5 percentage points from growth. The international lending

budget deficit "has been excessively rapid and ill-designed," the IMF's report says.

Congress should cancel the \$85 billion in spending

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Iran's battered reformers seek election rebound



Iranian women display their identification cards as they line up to vote in the presidential and municipal council elections at a polling station in Qom, 78 miles (125 kilometers) south of the capital Tehran, Iran, Friday, June 14, 2013. Iran's supreme leader delivered a salty rebuke to the U.S. Friday as Iranians lined up to vote in a presidential election that has suddenly become a showdown across the Islamic Republic's political divide: hard-liners looking to cement their control and re-energized reformists backing the lone moderate.

(AP Photo/Ebrahim Noroozi)

BRIAN MURPHY
NASSER KARIMI
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Reform-minded Iranians who have faced years of crackdowns looked Friday to claw back a bit of ground in a presidential election that gave them an unexpected hero and a chance to upend a vote that once appeared solidly in the hands of Tehran's ruling clerics.

While Iran's presidential elections offer a window into the political pecking orders and security grip inside the country — particularly since the chaos from a disputed outcome in 2009 — they lack the drama of truly high stakes as the country's ruling clerics and their military guardians remain the ultimate powers. Election officials began the ballot count after voters waited on line for hours in wilting heat at some polling stations in downtown Tehran and other cities, while others cast ballots across the vast country from desert outposts to Gulf seaports and nomad pastures. Voting was extended by five hours to meet demand, but also as possible political stagecraft to showcase the participation.

The apparent strong turnout suggested liberals and others abandoned a planned boycott as the election was transformed into a showdown across the Islamic Republic's political divide.

On one side were hard-liners looking to cement their control behind candidates such as nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili, who says he is "100 percent" against detente with Iran's foes, or Tehran's mayor, Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf.

Opposing them were re-

formists and others rallying behind the "purple wave" campaign of the lone relative moderate left in the race, a former nuclear envoy, Hasan Rowhani.

A preliminary sampling of results from around Iran suggested Rowhani's appeal was broad in cities and rural areas, although the tally was too small to draw clear trends, officials handling the ballot count told The Associated Press. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief media.

But even if the last-moment surge around Rowhani brings him to the presidency, it would be more of a limited victory than a deep shake-up. Iran's establishment — a tight alliance of the ruling clerics and the ultra-powerful Revolutionary Guard — still holds all the effective power and sets the agenda on all major decisions such as Iran's nuclear program and its dealings with the West.

Security forces also are in firm control after waves of arrests and relentless pressures since the last presidential election in 2009, which unleashed massive protests over claims the outcome was rigged to keep the combative Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in power for a second and final term. He is barred from seeking a third consecutive run.

The greater comfort level by the theocracy and Revolutionary Guard sets a different tone this time. Opposition groups appear too intimidated and fragmented to revive street demonstrations, and even a win by Rowhani — the only cleric in the race — would not likely be perceived as a threat to the ruling structure. □

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Turkish PM urges protesters to leave Gezi Park



Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan addresses his party members in Ankara, Turkey, Friday, June 14, 2013. Erdogan said he has asked a small delegation of protesters to convince those occupying a park to withdraw, adding that he is hopeful their protest action would end later in the day.

(AP Photo)

E. BECATOROS
SUZAN FRASER
Associated Press
ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey's prime minister on Friday urged a small delegation of protesters to persuade hundreds of others occupying an Istanbul park to withdraw. Turkish activists leading a sit-in were considering a promise by Recep Tayyip Erdogan to let the courts and a potential referendum decide the fate of the much-despised Gezi Park redevelopment project — a plan that has sparked Turkey's biggest protests in decades. The pledge was made during last-ditch negotiations after Erdogan had issued what he called a "final warning" to protesters. The two-week standoff has damaged Erdogan's international reputation and led to repeated interventions by riot police. After initially

inflaming tensions by dubbing the protesters "terrorists," the prime minister has moderated his stance in closed-door talks in the last few days. But Erdogan told party members Friday that the protesters in the park had "stayed long enough." "'Go and speak to them ... Don't let us be forced into reverting to different measures,'" Erdogan said he had told the protesters' representatives. Earlier in the day, Erdogan's ruling party announced that the government would suspend its plan to cut down trees in Gezi Park and install a replica Ottoman barracks until the courts could rule on its legality. And even if the courts sided with the government, a city referendum would be held to determine the plan's fate, officials said. It remained far from clear,

however, whether the overtures would work. Erdogan has pledged to end the two-week protest but has also urged his supporters to rally in Ankara and Istanbul this weekend. Those demonstrations could raise tension between his conservative, Islamic base and the people occupying the park who are mostly — but not all — liberal- and secular-

minded. As night fell Friday, a festive mood pervaded the park, and the crowd of thousands swelled. Many sang songs or snapped photos of makeshift barricades erected by protesters. The Taksim Solidarity group, two of whose members were in the meeting with Erdogan, has emerged as the most high-profile from the occupation that began last month.

But it does not speak for all of the hundreds camping in the park, many of whom claim no affiliation to any group. Bilge Seckin, a member of the umbrella group, said discussions in the park about Erdogan's initiative were continuing, but she sensed "the general feeling is that the people's requests were not addressed" during the talks with the prime minister. □



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First flight of Airbus A350 reopens wide-body race

LORI HINNANT
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Airbus sent a new wide-body plane into the skies Friday that sets the stage for intensifying competition with U.S. rival Boeing - with consequences for jobs, airlines' investments and the reputations of the powerful plane makers.

After years of delays and a revamp that cost billions, the A350 cruised for four hours in partly cloudy skies above Toulouse in southern France.

Most importantly, it then landed safely.

It met ear-to-ear smiles - and some sighs of relief - among the Airbus engineers and executives who helped the plane reach its maiden journey.

The flight marks a key step on the path to full certification for the jet, which can carry between 250 and 400 passengers and is the

European aircraft-maker's best hope for catching up in a long-haul market dominated by Boeing's 777 and the 787, known as the Dreamliner.

"At the end of the day you need to make it real, and this is the time for making it real. So I am very proud already," Didier Evrard, head of the A350 program, said while watching the flight.

"But I will be still nervous until it comes back."

Airspace over Toulouse, where Airbus has its headquarters, closed for both take-off and landing. With distinctive, upturned wing tips, the plane had a great big "A350" painted across its belly, heightening anticipation that it will fly at the Paris Air Show next week.

The plane's undercarriage remained down for the first part of the flight, so that they could run through a series of checks and ensure it was ready for the full



The flight test crew, Peter Chandler, Patrick Du-Che, Guy Magrin, Emanuele Costanzo, Fernando Alonso and Pacal Verneau wave to people after the first maiden flight of the Airbus A350 at Blagnac airport near Toulouse, southwestern France, Friday, June 14, 2013. The Airbus A350 has taken off on its maiden flight, setting the stage for intensifying competition with U.S. rival Boeing in the long-haul wide-body aircraft market. (AP Photo/Bob Edme)

flight.

Airbus has 613 orders for the A350, and hopes Friday's flight will bring it momentum heading into next week's Paris Air Show,

which is already shaping up as a battle of the wide-body planes.

"There is a lot of money at stake, a lot of employment at stake. This is an extremely important political, social and economic issue," said Gerald Feldzer, a French aviation expert and former airline pilot.

Airbus' potential customers, the world's airlines, have all been squeezed by high aviation fuel costs and a fall in passengers because of the struggling world economy. Carriers are therefore looking for ways to run their fleets more cost-effectively.

More than half of the twin-engine A350 consists of lightweight carbon-fiber designed to save on jet fuel, which makes up half the cost of long-haul flights. Airbus claims the A350 is 25 percent more fuel-efficient than comparable planes. The A350, which was de-

veloped for two years as Airbus hashed out a new design, is a competitor to the 787 - minus the lithium ion batteries now under investigation for unexplained smoldering. Airbus abandoned its plans to use the lithium ion batteries despite their advantages in weight, power and re-charging speed.

"The A350 has the same innovations more or less as the Dreamliner, the 787," said Feldzer. "The same amount or proportion of carbon for the lightness of the material, just as many electrical devices."

Boeing's list prices for its 787 line range from \$206 million to \$243 million. Airbus lists prices ranging from \$254 million to \$332 million, and had 613 orders as of May, compared with 890 orders for the 787. Steep discounts are common on large orders, although the details are rarely made public. □

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Brazil protesters warn more demonstrations soon

BRADLEY BROOKS
Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Protesters on Friday promised more organized action across Brazil in the days to come, following clashes in which police in Sao Paulo set upon thousands of young demonstrators angered by hikes in bus and subway fares.

Newspapers carried photos of bloodied protesters and journalists with battered, swollen faces, a young couple being beaten by police and videos of tear gas canisters and rubber bullets being fired into crowds chanting "no violence!" Protesters set fire to garbage bags piled in streets, broke windows and spray-painted graffiti on buildings and buses.

Protest organizers said more than 100 demonstrators were injured. Police would only say that 12 officers were hurt and that more than 230 people were detained and later released in the Thursday night demonstrations in Sao Paulo.

Similar protests were seen in Rio de Janeiro, the capital Brasilia and in Porte Alegre in southern Brazil. The conflicts come just as the Confederations Cup football tournament opens and the nation prepares to host Pope Francis next month on his first international trip as pontiff.

Since the end of the 1964-85 military dictatorship, Brazil has witnessed few

protests as violent as those in recent days. The focus of the protests is a 10-cent hike in public transport fares.

Protesters said that seemingly small increase released pent-up frustrations in a nation with a heavy tax burden yet woeful public education, health and transport systems.

"It's about much more than those 10 cents. It's about a society that is sick of corrupt politicians not making good on their promises to make improvements," said Bruno Bisaglia, 24, who was gathering video testimony about the protests. "We want decent education, health care and transportation. That's what this fight is all about."

Sao Paulo Mayor Fernando Haddad, whose office doesn't have responsibility over police, said individual officers "must be investigated" for using excessive force.

"Police always follow protocols. When these are followed, things go smoothly," Haddad told Globo TV. "But, according to images divulged by the press, the police yesterday apparently did not follow protocols, which is why the Public Safety department has ordered an investigation." Sao Paulo state Gov. Geraldo Alckmin, who does have authority over police, told Globo an investigation is under way.

But he defended the of-

ficers, saying that "police are obliged to protect the population and guarantee the right to come and go. We are always open to dialogue ... but will never toler-

ate vandalism."

Alckmin said the government has invited protest leaders to talks on their demands, but that the protesters "don't want dia-

logue, they prefer monologues."

Police Col. Reinaldo Simoes Rossi, responsible for the officers policing the protest in Sao Paulo, said force was used only after demonstrators had altered an agreed upon route they marched along, instead moving toward main avenues in an attempt to halt traffic. He also said protesters hurled stones and other objects at police. "The police guarantee the right to demonstrate, however it must also ensure the rights of the entire population, including the right to come and go. Any statements to the effect that police encouraged violence are completely unfounded," the police department said in a Friday statement. □



A protestor wearing a Guy Fawkes mask joins a protest against the hike in bus and subway fares in Rio de Janeiro. Thousands of protesters took to the streets in Brazil's two biggest cities, protesting against 10-cent hikes in bus and subway fares.

(AP Photo/Nicolas Tanner)

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EU gets deal on trans-Atlantic trade pact mandate

RAF CASERT

Associated Press

LUXEMBOURG (AP) — The European Union overcame French objections on Friday to come to agreement on a free trade negotiating mandate for sweeping talks with the United States that President Barack Obama wants to officially open next week.

Under Friday's deal, trade ministers at a meeting in Luxembourg agreed to France's demand to keep its movie and television industry out of the hotly anticipated trans-Atlantic talks. But, they agreed it could be possible to debate it at a later time, meaning the deeply divisive issue could resurface later.

The outcome should allow

Obama and his EU counterparts to announce the start of negotiations for a deal expected to provide a big boost to growth and jobs by eliminating tariffs and other barriers that have long plagued economic relations.

A free trade pact would create a market with common standards and regulations across countries that together account for nearly half the global economy. The compromise came after day-long talks pitting France's steadfast commitment to its "cultural exception" allowing for state subsidies and restrictive quotas for movies and TV shows against the free-trade proponents who insist all issues should be put on the table.

"Play ball!" tweeted Finland's European Affairs Minister Alexander Stubb after the agreement.

All other EU nations have vowed to protect the culture industry as well, but the large majority nevertheless wanted it to be part of the talks. They fear that removing it would set off tit-for-tat claims on both sides.

The 27 EU nations want to enter the sweeping talks with a unanimous mandate, giving France, the bloc's second biggest economy, major sway over the outcome.

For most, the potential gains were too important to let the talks slip.

"An EU-U.S. agreement could potentially represent 400,000 jobs in the EU, so that's a prize really worth working for," said Irish Enterprise Minister Richard Bruton, who chaired Friday's EU meeting. □



French Foreign Trade Minister Nicole Bricq waves to the media upon arrival at the EU trade ministers meeting in Luxembourg Friday, June 14, 2013.

(AP Photo/Yves Logghe)

Europe seeks to ease youth unemployment

ROME (AP) — Germany, France, Italy and Spain agreed Friday to find ways to help small- and medium-sized companies as part of a broader plan to create badly needed jobs for young people.

High youth unemployment has been a crippling result of Europe's sovereign debt crisis. Economy and labor ministers from the four nations met to draft proposals that leaders can debate at an EU summit at the end of the month.

Italian Premier Enrico Letta, who called the meeting, has made finding jobs for the young one of the battle cries of his new administration. "One of the conclusions is to give a signal of strong attention to the return to growth of our countries and for an effective

and serious battle against youth unemployment, a problem that exists in all of Europe," Italian Finance Minister Fabrizio Saccomanni told a news conference.

Saccomanni said the ministers agreed on the need to find new ways of financing small- and medium-sized businesses, which have been particularly heavy-hit in the crisis due to a lack of affordable credit from banks. Among the possible ways to improve the credit flow was issuing mini-bonds guaranteed either by governments, banks or the European Central Bank.

About 40 percent of Italians aged 15-24 and active in the job hunt are unemployed. The figure is above 50 percent in Spain and Greece. Experts warn that

if the rate stays that high, those countries could suffer a 'lost generation' of young workers. A new survey shows that 60 percent of Italians students are considering going abroad for work.

The ministers also agreed to strengthen the role of the private sector in efforts to create jobs, improve the exchange of expertise on training, and leverage the use of EU funds that will be available from 2014.

In Italy, businesses were urging governments to lower payroll taxes to create jobs. Patrizio Bertelli, the CEO of the Prada fashion house, told a fashion gathering that "some businesses don't have enough jobs to hire young people" due to plummeting domestic demand. □



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This joint venture was first created between the Marine Park Foundation and Aruba's leading water sports operator, Jolly Pirates to create awareness for more healthful reefs, vital for Aruba's tourists to continue to enjoy year after year. Tourists feel good knowing that 100% of their donation is being used to develop further awareness for Reef Care programs and the healthier implementation of a new system for public moorings. The \$15 donation and cool looking bracelet trios make great giving too.

Aruba's youth wrote essays on why they should be chosen to participate in first pilot summer sessions for the Aruba Marine Park Foundation's first PADI skin diver's courses. Selected were twenty-seven students as the first for the successful pilot program. Instructed by Canicio Vander Biezen, the academic portion of the classes were held upstairs at the Clubhouse of the Hadicurari Centro by MooMba Beach. Master Divers, Aruba's school teachers, Boat Captains, and Rescue workers joined forces for the big success of the program.

Instructing students on the importance of water safety and also protecting our marine life, sailing, snorkeling, diving and fish identification were part of the worthy program offered to the Island's qualifying students. After the three classroom sessions, students boarded the Jolly Pirates Schooners for private a tour where they learned the basics of sailing, water

safety, snorkeling and safety gear. It was of no surprise that most of the students in attendance were from second and third generation Water Sports families. We encourage more to show their support and interest in the coming programs. We would like to take this time to thank the VOLUNTEERS and also the parents of the participants for encouraging their children to do their part in protecting Aruba's Marine Park! A special thank you to those who made donations and wear your Jolly Pirates Awareness Bracelets! You can feel good knowing that your donations are being used well!

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more Awareness for the project, you can make a donation and wear one of the Save the Reef - bracelets for yourself. Bracelets also make great souvenir gifts and can be purchased at the Jolly Pirates Souvenir shop located at MooMba Beach.

Become a member of either the Aruba Heritage Museum Foundation or the Aruba Marine Park Foundation or participate in their projects, by calling (297)736-2273, visit the Aruba Marine Park Foundation face book page or email them at arubaheritagemuseum@gmail.com and or arubamarinepark@gmail.com ☐

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Ana Paula

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Ban Kuid'e – Songs And Rythm For Klein Bonaire

BONAIRE - Foundation Preservation Klein Bonaire (<http://www.kleinbonaire.org>) is a group of residents of Bonaire, from various walks of life, interested in ensuring that Klein Bonaire remains unspoiled by development.

In the opinion of all familiar with the fragile ecology of it's environment and experts who have studied the situation, development of Klein Bonaire would destroy sea turtle nesting grounds, eliminate sea birds breeding areas and cause underwater landslides. These changes could destroy life on the surrounding reef. Through public awareness and raising money the Foundation hopes to prevent future development on Klein Bonaire.

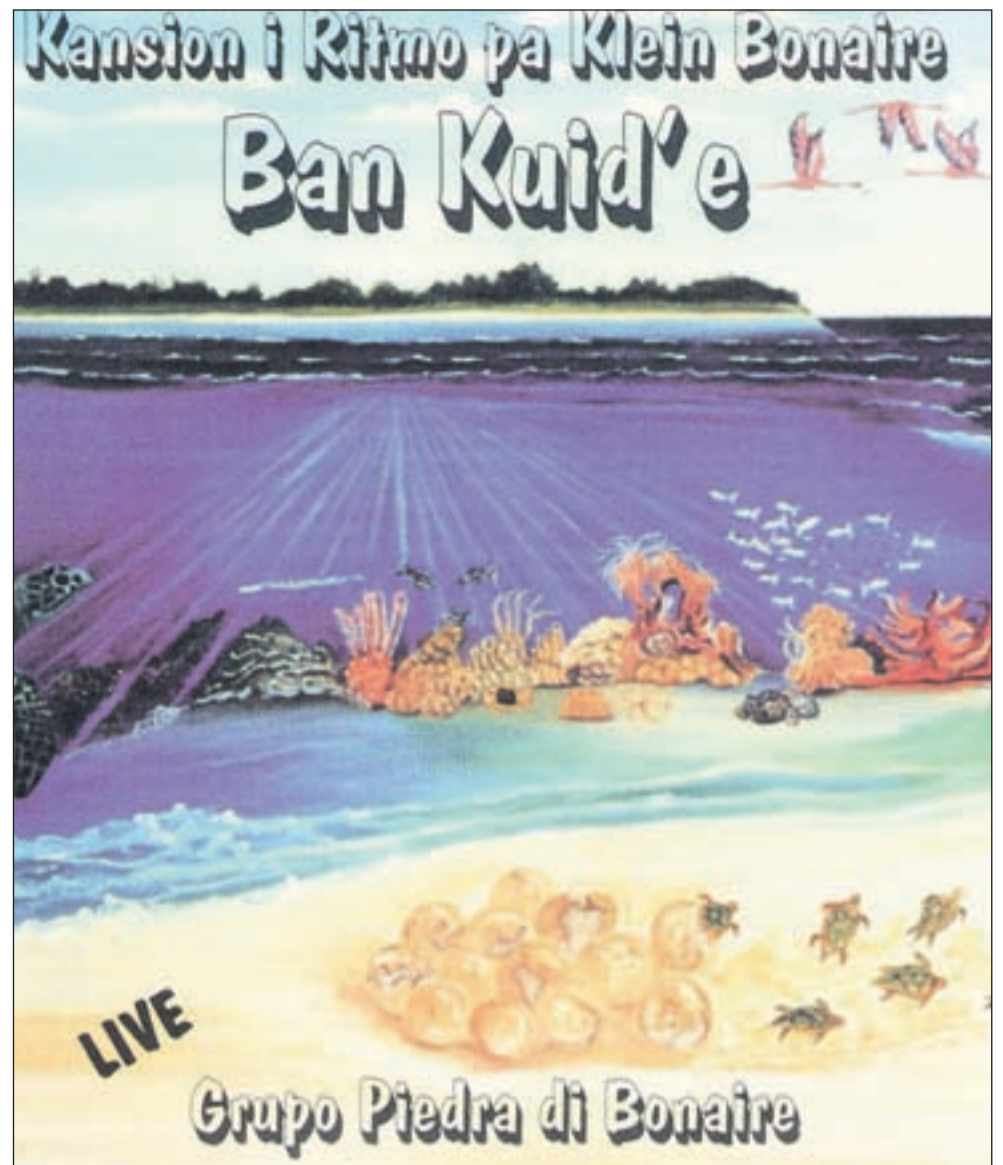
Supported by Knap Fonds Nederlandse Antillen produced the

Foundation in august 1997 the CD "Ban Kuid'e" with Grupo Piedra di Bonaire. Ten songs with a variation of rhythm from Barí till Calypso. The group disbanded many years ago but the songs are still alive.

The funds are now managed by Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) <http://www.bonaireturtles.org/> since one of their ongoing projects is monitoring and protecting the turtles (and environment) of Klein Bonaire.

When Klein Bonaire was bought back for the people of Bonaire (end of 1999), there was an agreement that nothing could ever be built there – it must remain unspoiled.

"Ban Kuid'e" is available through the various download portals on the Internet. □





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sino members playing 25 points on slot machines or play at one of our table games to qualified for one ticket to participate in our big raffle, which will take place this Saturday, June the 15th. We will start with

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So do not miss this fabulous Family Day event this coming Saturday June 15 at the Alhambra Casino so you could be one of the happy winners and become Mother or Father of the year 2013. Happy Father's day to all fathers.□

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Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

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Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade (3) dunks against the San Antonio Spurs during the second half at Game 4 of the NBA Finals basketball series, Thursday, June 13, 2013, in San Antonio. Associated Press

In tied NBA Finals, Wade says Game 5 could be best

BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — At their best in the NBA Finals, the Miami Heat have forced turnover after turnover, finding a gear the San Antonio Spurs just can't reach.

Play in Game 5 as they have during their two easy victories in the series, and LeBron James' defending champs will head home just one win away from another title.

But Miami's best hasn't been carrying over from game to game, not just in this series but for a while now. So it's anybody's guess what happens Sunday in a finals that's dead even, though the games haven't been.

"I think Game 5 should be the best game of the series," Dwyane Wade said. "Both teams should come out knowing each other, knowing what each other want to do, and it should be a very good game."

Not the way this series has been going.

Continued on Page 19

PHIL GOOD



Mickelson birdies 18th to tie for U.S. Open lead

Phil Mickelson reacts after his birdie putt on the 18th hole during the second round of the U.S. Open golf tournament at Merion Golf Club, Friday, June 14, 2013, in Ardmore, Pa. Associated Press Page 18

Horschel and Phil Mickelson lead at U.S. Open

JOSEPH WHITE

AP Sports Writer

ARDMORE, Pennsylvania

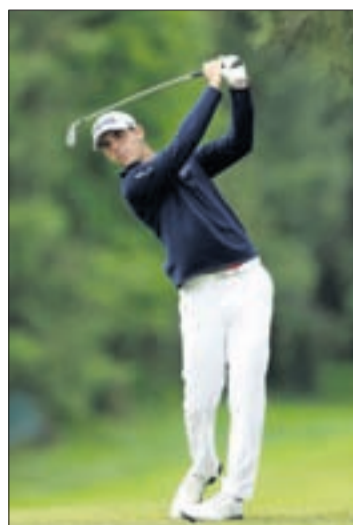
(AP) — Play has been suspended for the day at the U.S. Open, with Phil Mickelson and Billy Horschel tied for the lead.

Mickelson birdied the 18th late Friday to finish a 2-over round of 72. Horschel shot 3-under 67, hitting all 18 greens in regulation at Merion Golf Club.

Their 1-under totals of 139 made them the only players under par for the tournament; nearly half the field had yet to complete the second round, which was halted because of darkness.

Luke Donald, Steve Stricker and Justin Rose were in the clubhouse at even par. Two other players were still on the course at even par. The second round began late in the morning because storms on Thursday forced half the field to return early Friday to finish the first round.

Hoping to build on his own 67 from Thursday, Mickelson put his first shot of the day in a bunker and 3-putted the first hole for



a bogey. He was in rough and sand at No. 2, but he recovered to start a streak of eight pars, avoiding even the distraction of a groundhog — a relative of Punxsutawney Phil? — who made a mad dash across the fairway at No. 6. Mickelson lipped out a 4-foot birdie putt at No. 8.

A five-time runner-up seeking his first U.S. Open title, Mickelson had the luxury of a late tee time, much needed after he showed up with just a few hours to spare for the opening round so he could attend his daughter's eighth-grade graduation in California. It turned out to be



Billy Horschel tees off on the eighth hole Phil Mickelson tees off on the fourth hole during the second round of the U.S. Open golf tournament at Merion Golf Club, Friday, June 14, 2013, in Ardmore, Pa.

a gift. While Mickelson was able to rest Friday morning, much of the field endured the ordeal of finishing a delayed first round followed by a second round with little break in between.

By the time Mickelson teed off, only he and Belgium's Nicolas Colsaerts were under par. Colsaerts shot a 69 in the first round, but he fell off the pace Friday with three bogeys on the front nine.

As for the weather, the sun stayed around for most of the afternoon Friday after play began in a cool drizzle that was far gentler than the storms that interrupted

play twice on Thursday. The fallout from all the rain was a cramped schedule, complicated because the course requires long shuttle rides to move the players to and fro. It also left players and spectators spackled in mud from their shoes on up.

The must-see group of Tiger Woods, Adam Scott and Rory McIlroy was at times a hard-to-watch bunch — perhaps even for Woods' ski champion girlfriend Lindsey Vonn, who was part of the gallery.

The trio combined to shoot 14 over at the halfway mark. Woods' ailing left elbow flared up again, and he hit a chip from just off the green that traveled barely a foot while making bogey at the par-4 7th.

Woods then dropped his left hand off the club and shook his wrist while putting his tee shot wide of the fairway at No. 8, just as he had done several times on Thursday. The arm clearly bothered him again on the next shot, which he put in the rough near the green. He saved par on the hole and finished a second-round 70 that left him at 3 over for the tournament, still in contention if he can stay healthy.

"It's hard with the wind and the pin locations," Woods said. "They're really tough. ... We didn't think they were going to be as severe as they are."

Woods was tight-lipped about his elbow, saying only that it first bothered him at the Players Championship five weeks ago. Asked what he felt, he answered: "Pain."

Masters champion Scott fell apart quickly, all but quashing any hope for a Grand Slam. He was 3 under when first-round play was suspended Thursday, but he hit a hard-luck Merion shot at No. 12: an approach that landed just short of the pin, spun backward and rolled some 75 feet to the edge of the fairway rough. He also put a tee shot out of bounds at No. 14 to complete a first-round 72, then came back after the short turnaround to post a 76, 8 over, through two rounds.

"I got off on the wrong foot and just struggled to find my rhythm all day," Scott said. "I didn't make the putts I needed to kind of save some shots here and there. And they just slipped away too easily. But that's what can happen if you're just a little bit off."

McIlroy had quite the adventure, putting his drive at No. 4 onto the No. 8 fairway. Once he got back to the correct hole, he put a shot in a bunker and bogeyed the par 5. His second-round 70 left him at 3 over. "I'm very happy. Right in there for the weekend," McIlroy said. "I don't think I'll be too far away by the end of the day."

Then there was Luke Donald, who actually pulled ahead of Mickelson at 4 under with back-to-back birdies, including a chip-in at the par-3 13th during his second round. But Merion took him apart on the front nine when he bogeyed four consecutive holes, turning his number from red to black. His second-round 72 left him at even-par.

Coming into the Open, the question was how Merion would fare against a modern-day championship field. It last hosted this event in 1981, with the thinking that today's golfers had outgrown the course.

Certainly, the 301-yard par-3 10th and 102-yard par-3 13th yielded their share of makeable shots, but pre-tournament concerns about scores in the low 60s seem totally unwarranted. □

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Continued from page 17

Game 1 was a thriller, neither team able to build a double-digit lead over four back-and-forth quarters before Tony Parker's clinching basket helped the Spurs pull out a 92-88 victory.

The teams haven't delivered a classic since. The Heat won by 19, lost by 36 and cruised by 16. The last few minutes of each have looked more like an October exhibition than a mid-June championship clash. "You lose a game like we did in Game 2 and we come back and beat them in Game 3 and look like they looked last night, that's what drives me crazy, because as coaches you try to prevent that," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said Friday during a conference call. Neither team practiced.

"You like to be on a little bit more of an even keel and perform the same way each night, and the only thing I can tell myself after all these years is, you're dealing with people with emotions and not robots," Popovich said. "They come out and they all play hard, but there's that little intangible, that little spark of intensity or back against the wall, or a little bit of fear that just seems to kick in when you've lost the previous game. And when you find teams that can get over that, those are the championship teams." It's the most uneven stretch of the NBA Finals since 2005, according to STATS, when San Antonio and the Detroit Pistons swapped four straight games decided by 15 or more points to open the series.

Back then, the Spurs could depend on Tim Duncan, Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili to get them righted. But now Parker has a shaky hamstring, Ginobili's shot and confidence are even shakier, and San Antonio might need a throwback performance from Duncan in what could be his last home game in a storied finals career.

"If they don't get more from Tim Duncan, Sunday is the Spurs' last stand," Hall

of Famer Charles Barkley said on NBA TV's postgame show.

Duncan knows that what the Spurs really need is to take better care of the basketball. Their 17 turnovers led to 19 Miami points in Game 2, and they gave the Heat 23 points with their 19 turnovers Thursday. "That's a big problem," Duncan said. "When we lose, that's the big deal right there." A healthy Parker would help. He started strong in Game 4 while playing with a strained right hamstring but couldn't maintain it in the second half. He's hoping the two-day break between games will strengthen his stamina. "It's going to be huge for me," Parker said after the game. "Obviously, definitely got fatigued in the second half. Those two days I'm going to make sure I do a lot of treatment and to get 100 percent. Tonight, I was not 100 percent. By Sunday, that's my goal, to be good to go."

The Spurs can only help their Big Three looks as good as Miami's was on Thursday.

With 33 points and 11 rebounds from James, 32 points from Wade, and 20 points and 13 rebounds from Chris Bosh, the Heat rode the top-heavy balance that's supposed to deliver multiple titles to Miami.

But the team that sustained its excellence for 27 straight victories during the regular season hasn't even been able to do it for consecutive games lately. Double-digit victories in Games 3 and 5 of the Eastern Conference finals were followed by losses, as was their first victory in this series.

"Well, Game 5 is going to be a big game," Bosh said. "I think we just have to stay in the place that we're in." As usual, that may depend on James. After taking unusually long to get going in Games 2 and 3, he was out quick Thursday, making it clear the game was not going to be played on the Spurs' terms.

"I gave it everything I had," James said. "I was just playing as hard as I could until the tank was empty

and that's how it's going to have to be for the rest of this series."

Of the previous 27 times the finals were tied at 2-2, the Game 5 winner went on to take the series 20 times. The Heat lost in this situation two years ago in Dallas, and the Mavericks finished them off in Game 6 in Miami.

Wade has never gone the distance in his three previous NBA Finals, but kept mentioning Thursday that there were three games left, as if expecting this series to reach a Game 7.

The Heat could make that less likely with a victory Sunday. "It's going to be hard, the hardest thing we're going to do as a group is to try to repeat," Wade said. "And this team over here is not going to quit, no matter what. So we have to prepare for their best effort." □



Miami Heat's Chris Bosh (1) blocks a shot by San Antonio Spurs' Boris Diaw (33), of France, during the second half of Game 4 of the NBA Finals basketball series, Thursday, June 13, 2013, in San Antonio.

Associated Press

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Oakland Athletics' Nate Freiman celebrates after hitting the game-winning RBI single off New York Yankees pitcher Mariano Rivera in the 18th inning of a baseball game Thursday, June 13, 2013 in Oakland, Calif. Oakland won 3-2 in 18 innings.

Associated Press

The Associated Press home the winning run in the 18th inning against OAKLAND, California (AP) — Nate Freiman singled Mariano Rivera, lifting the

AL Capsules

Freiman's 18th-inning single lifts A's over Yanks

Oakland Athletics to a 3-2 victory over the New York Yankees on Thursday for a three-game sweep.

As a day game after a night game turned into a night game after a day game, John Jaso singled off Preston Claiborne (0-1) to start the decisive rally and went to third on Seth Smith's soft single to shallow left field against Rivera. Baseball's career saves leader issued only the 39th intentional walk of his 19-year career to Jed Lowrie before Freiman ended the 5-hour, 35-minute game. The American League West-leading A's (41-27) won their 11th in a row at home.

Winning pitcher Jesse Chavez (1-0) struck out seven in 5 2-3 scoreless innings.

ORIOLES 5, RED SOX 4, 13 INNINGS

BALTIMORE (AP) — Chris Davis singled home the tie-breaking run with two outs

in the 13th inning, giving the Orioles an exhausting victory over the Red Sox in the opener of a four-game series between AL East contenders.

Danny Valencia homered for the Orioles, who moved into second place and within 2½ games of Boston. Baltimore won despite leaving 16 on base and going 4 for 14 with runners in scoring position.

With two outs in the 13th, Nick Markakis drew a walk from Alex Wilson (1-1). Adam Jones singled and Davis followed with an opposite-field pop that landed in front of left fielder Daniel Nava.

T.J. McFarland (1-0) pitched the 13th to earn his first major league win.

ROYALS 10, RAYS 1

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP) — Elliot Johnson had a three three-run homer for his second hit of an eight-run sixth inning, leading the surging Kansas City Royals to a 10-1 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays.

Johnson, who was traded to Kansas City by the Rays in February, led off the big inning with a single and chased Jeremy Hellickson (4-3) with his second homer of the season, both coming against Tampa Bay. Johnson got his third hit of the game in the eighth inning and is 6 for 11 with four RBIs against his former team while batting .202 with three RBIs against every other team.

Ervin Santana (5-5) gave up five hits and an unearned run in 7 2-3 innings. The Royals have won eight of nine.

BLUE JAYS 3, RANGERS 1 ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Edwin Encarnacion hit a

tiebreaking two-run double in the eighth inning as the Blue Jays handed the Rangers their third straight loss.

The slumping Rangers wasted another solid outing by Yu Darvish, who has made five consecutive starts without a victory.

Neal Cotts (2-1) replaced Darvish to start the eighth, when Emilio Bonifacio reached on a throwing error by Gold Glove third baseman Adrian Beltre. Munenori Kawasaki had a sacrifice bunt before Tanner Scheppers, the second reliever, walked Jose Bautista before the double by Encarnacion.

Esmil Rogers (2-2) allowed one run over seven innings, the same as Darvish, who struck out nine.

INTERLEAGUE

PHILLIES 3, TWINS 2

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Cliff Lee allowed two runs in seven strong innings, Ben Revere had four hits and scored the go-ahead run, and the Phillies rallied to beat the Twins and snap a five-game losing streak.

The speedy Revere slid home with nobody out in the eighth, scoring from third base on Jimmy Rollins' chopper. First baseman Justin Morneau was playing in, but his throw was too late to catch Revere — formerly of the Twins.

Lee (8-2) gave up only one hit and faced the minimum number of batters through 6 1-3 innings before Joe Mauer walked.

Pinch-hitter Kevin Frandsen opened the eighth with a double against reliever Jared Burton (0-4) and scored the tying run on Michael Young's single. □

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Wainwright leads Cards over Mets and Harvey 2-1

The Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — Adam Wainwright became the first 10-game winner in the majors by throwing seven scoreless innings and sent Matt Harvey to his first loss of the season, leading the St. Louis Cardinals over the New York Mets 2-1 Thursday in a classic pitching matchup. Wainwright (10-3) retired his first 11 batters before David Wright's single, and allowed four hits with six strikeouts and two walks. He matched his career best by winning his fifth straight start, dropped his ERA to 2.18 and got his 1,000th career strikeout. Known best in New York for freezing Carlos Beltran with a called third strike to end Game 7 of the 2006 National League championship series, Wainwright had been 0-4 with an 8.46 ERA in four starts against the Mets since beating them on April 18, 2010. Edward Mujica allowed a long home run to Marlon Byrd in the ninth before remaining perfect in 19 save chances. Mujica got defensive help from second baseman Matt Carpenter, who made a sliding stop on his backhand to prevent the tying run. Harvey (5-1) had been unbeaten in 14 starts since Sept. 12 and he pitched well enough to win, giving up one run and five hits in seven innings with seven strikeouts and a walk. St. Louis scored its only run off him in the third on Carpenter's RBI triple. Allen Craig added a run-scoring single in the eighth. Harvey, who lowered his ERA to 2.04, had no-decisions in eight of

previous nine starts, and the Mets have scored just 18 runs while he's been in the game during his last 10 outings, according to STATS. CUBS 6, REDS 5, 14 INNINGS CHICAGO (AP) — Pinch-hitter Julio Borbon singled home the winning run with two outs in the 14th inning as Chicago ended Cincinnati's record 12-game winning streak at Wrigley Field. The Cubs hadn't beaten Cincinnati at home since last Aug. 9. With the win, Chicago avoided a four-game sweep and improved to 3-10 against the Reds this season. Hector Rondon (1-0) pitched two innings for the win and Chicago's bullpen finished with 13 strikeouts over eight scoreless innings in a game that lasted 5 hours, 7 minutes. David DeJesus homered and Nate Schierholtz tripled twice for the Cubs, who had lost eight of 10 to fall a season-worst 13 games below .500. Jonathan Broxton (2-2) took the loss in the longest game for both teams this season. NATIONALS 5, ROCKIES 4 DENVER (AP) — Ryan Zimmerman homered, doubled and drove in three runs, Ian Desmond got four hits as Washington beat the depleted Colorado Rockies. Colorado outfielders Carlos Gonzalez and Dexter Fowler were hurt early and star shortstop Troy Tulowitzki left with a rib injury in the eighth. While the Rockies said X-rays on Gonzalez and Fowler were negative and listed both players as day to day, Tulowitzki's injury could be more serious. □



St. Louis Cardinals center fielder Jon Jay (19) fields New York Mets' Jordany Valdespin's sixth-inning flyout near the warning track in a baseball game in New York, Thursday, June 13, 2013.
Associated Press



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Federer breezes into Halle semis

NESHA STARCEVIC

AP Sports Writer

HALLE, Germany (AP) — Roger Federer blew past Mischa Zverev 6-0, 6-0 to reach the Gerry Weber Open semifinals on Friday, teaching a painful lesson to a player trying to serve and volley on grass, the surface best suited for such a game.

Federer will play defending champion Tommy Haas, who beat him in last year's final. The German came from behind to beat Gael Monfils 6-7 (4), 6-3, 6-3.

"Hopefully, I'll do a little better than Mischa," Haas said.

Second-seeded Richard Gasquet also made the last four, beating eighth-seeded Florian Mayer 6-3, 7-6 (4) to stay on course for a third title this year.

Gasquet will play Mikhail Youzhny, who upset 2011 champion Philipp Kohlschreiber 6-3, 6-2. Youzhny's only victory in eight previous matches against the sixth-seeded Kohlschreiber was when the German had to retire after one set in 2007.

The top-seeded Federer needed only 39 minutes to record the second "double bagel" of his career. The first was over Gaston Gaudio at the Masters Cup in Shanghai in 2005.

"It's not something which is easy to do. You never go into a match aiming for that score," Federer said. "I was very surprised that it happened today, especially on grass."

"I think it is disappointing for a serve-and-volley player to go down like this. It shows also how easy it is to hit passing shots or returns



Switzerland's top seeded Roger Federer returns the ball to Germany's Mischa Zverev during their match at the Gerry Weber Open tennis tournament in Halle, Germany, Friday, June 14, 2013. Federer defeated Zverev with 6-0 and 6-0.

Associated Press

today."

Zverev, a German wild card ranked No. 156, stuck to his game plan and paid the price for it.

"I hope he doesn't take it too badly," Federer said. "I just had a pretty easy time picking up his serve and I must have made a ton of returns."

While saying he would rather win 6-1, 6-2, Federer said gifting Zverev a game never crossed his mind. He said the only time he lost 6-0, 6-0 was his first match, at age 8.

Zverev took his loss in stride. "I'd rather lose 6-0, 6-0 to Roger in a quarterfinal" than to a qualifier in the second round, Zverev said. "At least there is something to talk about later."

Federer is looking for his first title of the year and his sixth on the grass court at Halle, his favorite tune-up

for Wimbledon. Federer has seven Wimbledon titles and will be the defending champion there. Four of his Wimbledon titles have come after triumphs in Halle. But his last title in Halle was in 2008.

"It's been a long time since I won here, so that title this year has the highest priority for me," said Federer, who owns a record 17 Grand Slam championships.

Haas is the oldest man in the top 100, currently ranked No. 11 at age 35 and enjoying a second spring. He already has a title this year at home, in Munich.

Monfils thrilled the crowd with his acrobatic, non-conventional shot-making. Once, he let a high ball bounce between his legs, twisted around and hit a smash on the turn. The smash was good but he

lost the point on an error. He also dived and jumped high to hit overhead shots that pleased the crowd. The third-seeded Haas was perhaps less spectacular but more effective and simply made fewer errors.

"It was close, he was lucky to hit a few lines at the end," Monfils said. "I play such points to win them, not just to have fun."

"You always look forward to such matches. Roger is one of the greatest players of all time. It's something real special," Haas said.

Mayer produced a pair of stunning diving winners but Gasquet was the steadier player and fired an ace to finish the match.

"It was a tough match for me because he is a good player and I lost to him last year in Wimbledon," Gasquet said. "I played very solid." □

Featherweight champ Garcia fails to make weight

DALLAS (AP) — Mikey Garcia's reign as WBO featherweight champion was short-lived.

Garcia failed to make weight for his Saturday night fight against former title-holder Juan Manuel Lopez. The fight will go on, with Lopez regaining the title if he wins. The title will be vacant if Garcia wins. The bout's promoter, Top Rank, tweeted the development Friday. A message left at Top Rank's office was not immediately returned.

Garcia weighed in at 128 pounds, 2 over the featherweight limit. Lopez weighed in at 125 1/2.

Garcia had won the title from Orlando Salido on a unanimous decision in New York in January. He is 31-0 with 26 knockouts.

The only two losses of Lopez's career came to Salido. The first one cost him the WBO belt, and the second led to a one-year suspension by Puerto Rican boxing officials when he accused the referee who stopped the fight of betting on the match.

Lopez, who is known as Juanma, has said several times the fight with Garcia is the biggest of the Puerto Rican's career.

"It is a very important fight and one that I had to take at this point in my career," Lopez, who is 33-2 with 30 knockouts, said through an interpreter in a conference call. "I know this fight can get me back to where I want to be." □



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U.S. prosecutors want smartphone 'kill switch'

MEGHAN BARR
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. law enforcement officials are demanding the creation of a "kill switch" that would render smartphones inoperable after they are stolen, New York's top prosecutor said in a clear warning to the world's smartphone manufacturers. Citing statistics showing that 1 in 3 robberies nationwide involve the theft of a mobile phone, New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman on Thursday announced the formation of a coalition of law enforcement agencies devoted to stamping out what he called an "epidemic" of robberies.

"All too often, these robberies turn violent," said Schneiderman, who was joined at a news conference by San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon. "There are assaults. There are murders." The coalition, which is called the Secure Our Smartphones Initiative, will pressure smartphone companies and their share-

holders to help dry up the secondary market in stolen phones.

The announcement came on the same day Gascon and Schneiderman were scheduled to co-host a "Smartphone Summit" with representatives from major smartphone makers Apple Inc., Samsung Electronics Co., Google Inc. and Microsoft Corp.

Schneiderman would not elaborate on how far his office might go to ensure that manufacturers comply with the coalition's demands.

He likened the functionality of a "kill switch" to the ability for consumers to cancel a stolen credit card.

The general public should not be forced to pay more for smartphones that have a "kill switch," Schneiderman said.

After the summit, Schneiderman and Gascon released a statement saying they "asked the companies to commit to develop effective solutions to this national crime wave and install them on all new products within one year."



A woman uses her phone while sitting front of a Cable Car in San Francisco, Wednesday, June 5, 2013. San Francisco's district attorney and New York's attorney general say they will meet with major cell phone manufacturers, as they push the industry to do more to protect consumers from violent street crimes connected to cell phone thefts.

Apple said at a developers' conference this week that such a feature would be part of its iOS7 software to be released in the fall. Gascon and Schneiderman said in a statement they were appreciative of the gesture but would re-

serve judgment until they could "understand its actual functionality." "Apple has been very vague as to what the system will do," Gascon said at the news conference. In New York City, nicknamed the Big Apple, po-

lice have coined the term "Apple-picking" to describe thefts of the popular iPhone and other mobile products, like iPads. Such thefts comprise 40 percent of all robberies in New York City, authorities say. □

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Disappointing reports help push US stocks down

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Disappointing reports about the U.S. economy helped push the stock market lower on Friday.

Concerns that the Federal Reserve could announce plans to cut back its stimulus program next week also weighed on the mood.

Americans' confidence in the economy weakened in June and was lower than economists had estimated, according to the Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan survey out Friday. Another report said factories weren't as busy as expected.

The International Monetary Fund, a global lender, offered no help. The IMF said Friday that U.S. government spending cuts that kicked in March 1 were "ill-designed" and slowed the economy down.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index sank 9.63 points, or 0.6 percent, to 1,626.73. Media company Gannett fell the most, dropping \$1.61, or 6 percent, to \$24.99.

"There was just no good news today," said Cam Albright, a director at Wilmington Trust Investment Advisors in Wilmington, Delaware. Add the handful of economic reports out Friday to the anxiety over

Dow lower, losing \$2.24, or 3 percent, to \$72.97.

Market indexes flitted from slight gains to losses in morning trading, a contrast to the sudden lurches in previous days. All three major indexes lost 1 per-



Trader Michael Mozian works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Disappointing reports about the U.S. economy helped push the stock market lower on Friday.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

the Fed's stimulus program, "and you have the recipe for a soft market to finish the week," he said.

The Dow Jones industrial dropped 105.90 points, or 0.7 percent, to 15,070.18. American Express led the

cent or more this week.

Trading has been volatile since late May as traders try to figure out when the Fed will dial back its aggressive support for the U.S. economy. This week was no different: The Dow slumped a

total of 243 points on Tuesday and Wednesday then jumped 180 points Thursday. The blue-chip average has made moves of 100 points or more in seven of the last 10 trading days. The Fed buys \$85 billion in bonds every month as part of a campaign to keep interest rates extremely low. The aim is to encourage borrowing, spending and investing. Some investors worry that long-term interest rates could spike when the Fed pulls back, raising borrowing costs and threatening the economic recovery. Higher yields for government bonds have already started pushing mortgage rates up.

Policymakers at the Fed will start a two-day meeting Tuesday to discuss the central bank's next steps. After the meeting wraps up, the bank will release its policy statement and Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke will hold another press conference.

Scott King, senior fiduciary investment adviser at Unified Trust in Lexington, Kentucky, said that investors in

recent weeks have been influenced more by wondering about what the Fed might do than by the underlying economy.

"You have a number of Fed governors saying the opposite to what Bernanke is saying," King said. "And that's made the markets more jittery."

King said investors were disappointed Friday by the drop in consumer confidence. He described the economy as "plodding along."

"Wage growth continues to be pretty meager, and unemployment continues to be lackluster," King said. Banks led nine of the 10 industry groups in the S&P 500 lower. Utilities made slight gains. Investors tend to favor these safety plays when they want stable companies that pay steady dividends.

The S&P 500 hit a record high of 1,669 on May 21. The next day, Fed officials said they would consider pulling back on their stimulus program once the economy looks healthy enough. The S&P 500 has lost 2 percent since.

In other Friday trading, the Nasdaq composite index lost 21.81 points, or 0.6 percent, to 3,423.56.

The price of oil rose \$1.16 to close at \$97.85 a barrel, near its highest level of the year, as traders reacted to news that the U.S. would provide weapons to rebel forces in Syria.

Gold rose \$9.80, or 0.7 percent, to \$1,387.60 an ounce.

In the market for U.S. government bonds, the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note dipped to 2.13 percent from 2.15 percent late Thursday. The yield reached a 14-month high of 2.29 percent on Tuesday. □

Smithfield Foods' 4Q profit falls 63 percent

M. FELBERBAUM
AP Business Writer

RICHMOND, Virginia (AP)

— Pork producer Smithfield Foods Inc.'s profit sank nearly 63 percent in the fourth quarter as feed costs rose even as consumers resist price hikes, hog prices fell and its exports to China and Russia declined.

The results reported Friday come only weeks after Smithfield agreed to a \$4.72 billion takeover offer from the majority shareholder in China's largest meat processor.

The company, whose brands include Armour,

Farmland and its name-sake, said Friday it earned \$29.7 million, or 21 cents per share, for the period ended April 28. That's down from \$79.5 million, or 49 cents per share, a year ago, when its results included a \$16.8 million benefit from insurance reimbursements. Revenue rose more 3 percent to \$3.32 billion.

Analysts polled by FactSet expected higher earnings of 42 cents per share on lower revenue of \$3.27 billion. Its shares rose 3 cents to \$32.84 in morning trading Friday. The takeover offer that Smithfield accept-

ed was for \$34 per share. Like most pork producers, Smithfield has been caught in a tug of war with consumers. The company needs to raise prices to offset rising commodity costs, namely the corn it uses for feed. But consumers are still extremely sensitive to price changes in the current economy. By raising prices, Smithfield risks cutting into its sales should consumers cut back or buy cheaper meats, such as chicken.

The company said sales of packaged meats such as deli meats, bacon, sausage, and hot dogs, rose 6

percent during the quarter. Sales of fresh pork fell 3 percent as Smithfield saw a decline in exports to China and Russia on certification requirements for ractopamine, a feed additive for creating lean meat that's banned in both countries. A weaker yen resulted in lower shipments to Japan, the company said.

"This decline in pork exports pushed production back onto the domestic market and negatively impacted our hog production and fresh pork businesses," CEO C. Larry Pope said in a news release. □



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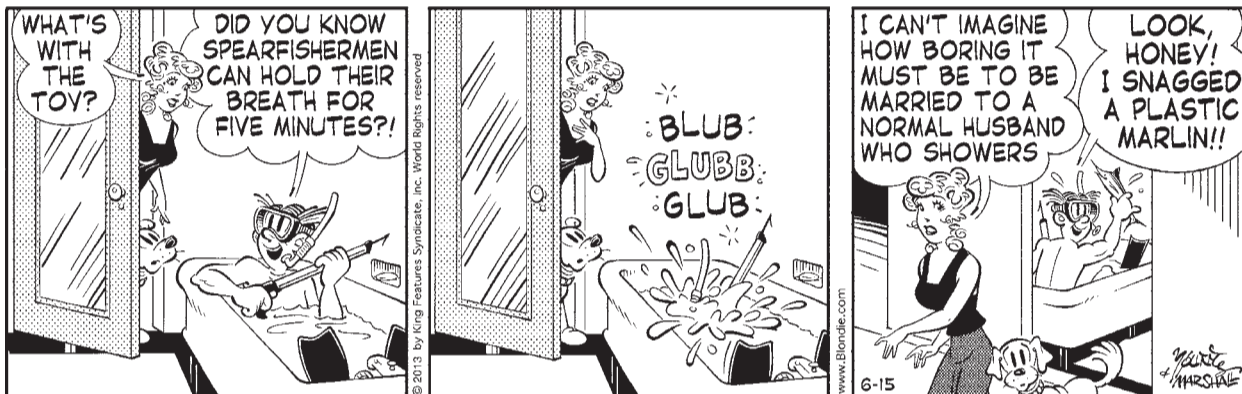
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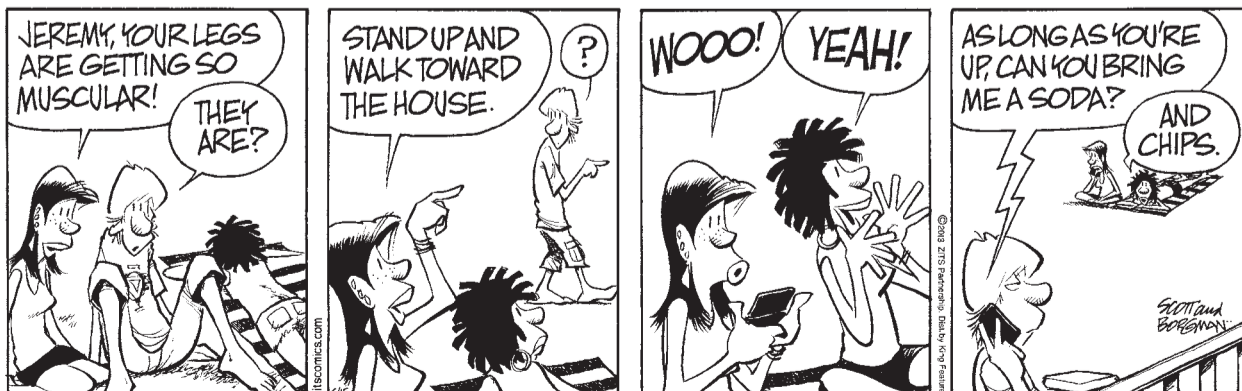
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		9						3
	7		8				2	
3				9		8		
	2		7					
		6				9		
				8		6		
		5		3				2
	8			7		1		
1						5		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

6/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

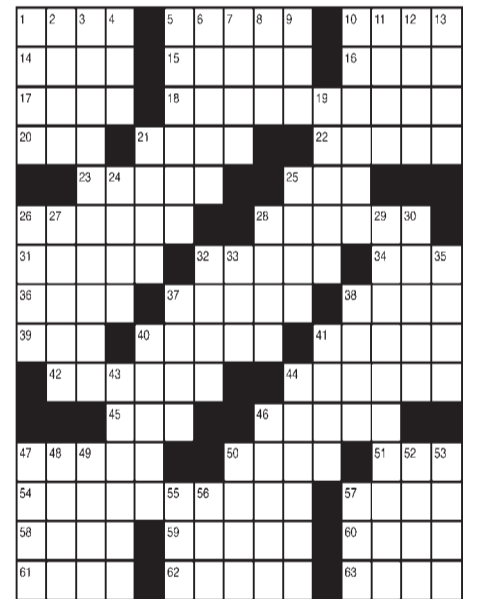
4	7	1	9	2	8	3	6	5
9	3	2	7	6	5	8	1	4
6	8	5	3	4	1	7	9	2
8	2	4	1	7	6	5	3	9
7	1	9	8	5	3	4	2	6
3	5	6	4	9	2	1	8	7
1	9	7	6	8	4	2	5	3
5	6	8	2	3	7	9	4	1
2	4	3	5	1	9	6	7	8

ACROSS

- Sheltered inlet
- Of the countryside
- Graceful waterbird
- Ardent
- Ridiculous
- Gray wolf
- Sluggish Griffey and his dad
- Triumphant
- Finale
- Out of danger
- Big & powerful
- Suggest indirectly
- Sasha, to Malia
- Takes place
- June and July
- Nuts
- One of the Marx Brothers
- Hole-making tool
- Leave out
- Seal cracks with filler
- Sequoia or elm
- Gun the engine
- Was mistaken
- Green gems
- Up; worked together
- Misgivings
- Noisy quarrel
- Game similar to keno
- Royal decree
- Immature flowers
- TV's "Got a Secret"
- Something that distracts attention from the real issue
- Hopping insect
- Violent wind
- Piece of door hardware
- Lease
- Smallest bills
- More bizarre
- Chances

DOWN

- Bakery dessert
- Not as much



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

6/15/13

Friday's Puzzle Solved

TEA	APACE	SODA
EATS	ROBOT	AVID
DROP	CRUSH	HEED
SPAGHETTI	ARTS	
REED	OUR	
SHIRTS	DEPRAVED	
NOTES	ROBIN	ADO
AWED	HUMBA	FLIP
RIM	JULES	SAUCE
LESSENED	GAIETY	
ITS	SOIL	
CHIC	APPALLING	
RISK	WORLD	NEAT
IDLE	ALIVE	GALE
BEEN	YEMEN	RAN

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6/15/13

- Rowing team
- Tight, as a rope
- Overdo the role
- Down; notes
- Foot insteps
- Los Angeles baseball player
- Dive forward suddenly
- Consequently
- College official
- Doing nothing
- Tie up
- Peddle; sell
- Consumes
- Greek letter
- of; free from
- To and

Ideas for keeping your data safe from spying

RAPHAEL SATTER
Associated Press
LONDON (AP) — Phone call logs, credit card records, emails, Skype chats, Facebook message, and more: The precise nature of the NSA's sweeping surveillance apparatus has yet to be confirmed.

But given the revelations spilling out into the media recently, there hardly seems a single aspect of daily life that isn't somehow subject to spying or surveillance by someone. Experts say there are steps anyone can take to improve privacy, but they only go so far.

Using anonymity services and encryption "simply make it harder, but not impossible," said Ashkan Soltani, an independent privacy and security researcher. "Someone can always find you — just depends on how motivated they are."

With that caveat, here are some basic tips to enhance your privacy:

ENCRYPT YOUR EMAILS

Emails sent across the Web are like postcards. In some cases, they're readable by anyone standing between you and its recipient. That can include your webmail company, your Internet service provider and whoever is tapped into the fiber optic cable passing your message around the globe — not to mention a parallel set of observers on the recipient's side of the world. Experts recommend encryption, which scrambles messages in transit, so they're unreadable to anyone trying to intercept them. Techniques vary, but a popular one is called PGP, short for "Pretty Good Privacy." PGP is effective enough that the U.S. government tried to block its export in the mid-1990s, arguing that it was so powerful it should be classed as a weapon. Disadvantages: Encryption can be clunky. And to work, both parties have to be using it.

USE TOR

Like emails, your travels around the Internet can easily be tracked by anyone standing between you

and the site you're trying to reach. TOR, short for "The Onion Router," helps make your traffic anonymous by bouncing it through a network of routers before spitting it back out on the other side. Each trip through a router provides another layer of protection, thus the onion reference. Originally developed by the U.S. military, TOR is believed to work pretty well if you want to hide your traf-

fic from, let's say, eavesdropping by your local Internet service provider. And criminals' use of TOR has so frustrated Japanese police that experts there recently recommended restricting its use. But it's worth noting that TOR may be ineffective against governments equipped with the powers of global surveillance.



In this file photo from Nov. 16, 2006, Scott Noteboom, right, director of data center engineering operations, explains how computer servers will be positioned during a tour of Yahoo's new data center at the Confluence Technology Center in Wenatchee, Wash. Yahoo is one of the nine Internet service companies identified by The Washington Post as participating in a clandestine snooping program code-named "PRISM."

Associated Press

Disadvantages: Browsing the web with TOR can be painfully slow. And some services — like file swapping protocols used by many Internet users to share videos and music —

aren't compatible. DITCH THE PHONE Your everyday cellphone has all kinds of privacy problems. In Britain, cellphone safety was so poor that crooked journalists made a cottage industry out of eavesdropping on their victims' voicemails. In general, proprietary software, lousy encryption, hard-to-delete data and other security issues make a cellphone a bad bet for

storing information you'd rather not share.

An even bigger issue is that cellphones almost always follow their owners around, carefully logging the location of every call, something which could effectively give governments a daily digest of your everyday life. Security researcher Jacob Appelbaum has described cellphones as tracking devices that also happen to make phone calls. If you're not happy with the idea of an intelligence agency following your footsteps across town, leave the phone at home.

Disadvantages: Not having a cellphone handy when you really need it. Other alternatives, like using "burner" phones paid for anonymously and discarded after use, rapidly become expensive.

CUT UP YOUR CREDIT CARDS The Wall Street Journal says the NSA is monitoring American credit card records in addition to phone calls. Some cybercriminals can use the same methods. So stick to cash, or, if you're more adventurous, use electronic currencies to move your money around if you want total privacy.

Disadvantages: Credit cards are a mainstay of the world payment system, so washing your hands of plastic money is among the most difficult moves you can make. □

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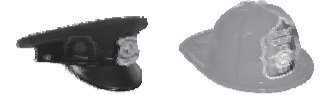
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Tereshkova marks 50 years of her historic flight

VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — It was another Soviet first in space 50 years ago — putting a woman in orbit. And 26-year old Valentina Tereshkova carried her part with grace, shouting "Take off your hat, sky, I'm coming!" as she blasted off.

President Vladimir Putin praised her during a meeting at his residence Friday, marking the anniversary of her flight, which came a little more than two years after the Soviet Union put the first man into orbit. Putin awarded her the Order of Alexander Nevsky for meritorious public service, one of the highest Russian honors.

Tereshkova's three-day mission instantly made her a global celebrity and a poster image for Soviet space glory.

However, behind the scenes there were strong concerns about the flight and Tereshkova's account of the mission differs dramatically from recollections of other veterans of the nation's space program.

Recalling her flight, the 76-year old cosmonaut says she felt no fear despite what she described as a glitch that might have stranded her in space. Others have faulted her performance and questioned whether she was able to deal with an emergency on descent.

Soviet space officials started considering a space mission by a woman soon after Yuri Gagarin's flight in



This undated file photo shows the first woman in space, Soviet cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova. Tereshkova marks the 50th anniversary of her historic flight.

Associated Press

April 1961, seeing it as another chance to advertise the nation's prowess.

To make the mission even more spectacular for propaganda purposes, Moscow decided to score another first by making it the first simultaneous flight of two spaceships. Valery Bykovsky blasted off aboard the Vostok-5 ship on June 14, 1963, and Tereshkova followed him on June 16.

Tereshkova, who was given the call sign of Chaika (Seagull), blasted off faultlessly and stayed in good shape until day two, when flight controllers noted that she was slow or unable to fulfill their commands and looked tired and unresponsive. "She sounded apathetic in conversations with ground control," Vladimir Yazdovsky, the chief doctor of the Soviet space program wrote in his memoirs. "She largely limited her movements and kept sit-



Russian President Vladimir Putin awards cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova, the first woman in space, with the Order of Alexander Nevsky in the Novo-Ogaryovo residence outside Moscow, Friday, June 14, 2013.

Associated Press

ting almost motionless." Yazdovsky said Tereshkova felt unwell because of weightlessness, and Sergei Korolyov, considered the father of Russia's space program, was so concerned about her condition that he suggested an early landing. Officials decided, however, to stick to the original plan for a three-day mission.

Korolyov's deputy, Boris Chertok, later recalled in his chronicle of the Soviet space program that worries about Tereshkova were exacerbated by her failure to properly align the ship during a simulation testing her ability to perform a manual landing in case of autopilot failure during descent.

Her ship landed faultlessly in automatic mode on June 19, 1963, but Chertok said that Korolyov and others spent yet another agonizing moment when Tereshkova failed to communicate with ground

controllers during the descent.

Tense moments of Tereshkova's mission remained hidden from the public until the Soviet collapse when top figures in the space program spoke about it for the first time. Tereshkova dismissed all the talk about her feeling unwell during the flight as groundless speculation. Tereshkova told reporters last week that engineers made a mistake in designing the ship's controls, which would have left her stranded if she hadn't noticed it in time.

"It was programmed to raise the orbit instead of landing," she said. "I put the new data in and it worked fine."

Tereshkova said that Korolyov himself pleaded with her after the flight to keep the flaw secret: "He told me: 'Chayechka (a nickname for Chaika), please don't talk about it.'"

She said she kept the promise and only spoke about it

because a space engineer disclosed the glitch in 1993. Chertok and other top figures in the Russian space program told a sharply different story, saying that Tereshkova simply couldn't pilot the ship in manual mode during in-orbit training. Chertok recalled Tereshkova's meeting with engineers focusing on the issue that involved a private conversation with Korolyov, from which she emerged teary-eyed.

Doctors also had their share of complaints. Yazdovsky wrote that after landing in the Altai region in southern Siberia, Tereshkova drank horse's milk and ate food offered to her by local farmers, giving them what was left of her space ration in violation of medical regulations. He also claimed that Tereshkova cleaned the mess on the ship after her landing and made retrospective entries in the ship's log, making it impossible for doctors to objectively evaluate her condition. Tereshkova received a hero's welcome after the flight and was showered with awards. A few months later she married cosmonaut Andrian Nikolayev with Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev presiding over the wedding party.

Tereshkova moved on to an official career, holding various jobs and honorary titles. She now holds a Parliament seat on the ticket of the main Kremlin party, serving as deputy chairman of the foreign affairs committee in the lower house. □

US: Modified wheat appears to be isolated

MARY CLARE JALONICK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Agriculture Department says it has no indications that genetically modified wheat found in Oregon last month has spread beyond the field in which it was found.

No genetically engineered wheat has been approved for U.S. farming, and the department is investigating how the engineered wheat got there.

USDA spokesman Matt Paul said in a statement Friday that the department "has neither found nor been informed of anything that would indicate that this incident amounts to more than a single isolated incident in a single field on a single farm."

Agriculture Department officials have said the wheat is the same strain as a genetically modified wheat that was designed to be herbicide-resistant and

was legally tested by seed giant Monsanto a decade ago but never approved. Japan, Korea and Taiwan have suspended imports of western white wheat from the Pacific Northwest as the USDA investigates.

Paul said that investigators have interviewed the farmer who harvested the wheat from his field, interviewed the supplier who sold the producer wheat seed, obtained samples of the seed and obtained

samples of other wheat grown by the farmer. All of the samples have tested negative so far, Paul said, and there is no indication that the engineered wheat entered commerce.

USDA said the investigation is continuing, and inspectors are conducting interviews with approximately 200 area growers. The department also has given trading partners a copy of the test developed by Monsanto so they can

identify the engineered strain.

Most of the corn and soybeans grown in the United States are already modified, or genetically altered to include certain traits, often resistance to herbicides or pesticides. But the country's wheat crop is not, as many wheat farmers have shown reluctance to use genetically engineered seeds since their product is usually consumed directly. □

Doc walks backup singers '20 Feet' into spotlight

MICHAEL CIDONI LENNOX
AP Entertainment Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) — For Merry Clayton, Lisa Fischer and Darlene Love, fame and fortune were just a shot away. But they never quite hit the bull's-eye.

The documentary "20 Feet From Stardom" sings the praises of Clayton, Fischer, Love and many other supremely talented background vocalists who either didn't get into the spotlight, didn't stay there long, or never got credit even when they took the lead and scored hits. "I probably interviewed 65 background singers," noted the film's director, veteran documentarian Morgan Neville, while promoting the film recently at a recording studio in Hollywood.

"I found myself gravitating toward this handful of women who probably should have been stars, could have been stars. And if it wasn't for one hit, we'd all know who they are."

Case in point: Merry Clayton, who became part of rock history after getting a last-minute late-night call to sing with the Rolling Stones on the 1969 recording of "Gimme Shelter." It is Clayton who wails, "Rape, murder! It's just a shot away. It's just a shot away." After that big break, Clayton got her best shot, releasing the first album on producer Lou Adler's Ode Records to be issued after Carole King's legendary "Tapestry."

But Clayton's solo efforts never clicked. Nor have they yet for Judith Hill, who was set to duet with Michael Jackson on the ill-fated "This Is It" tour. Hill's dream of being a household name is still alive, but she knows it may never come true.

"A lot of times there are so many amazing, great background singers who can be 'the artist,'" Hill explained. "(But) maybe there's something in their personal life, or may-

be their management can be slightly off. There's so many things that can easily set off the reason why they are not front and center." Some actually were front, center and successful:

— Darlene Love sang the lead on the 1962 chart-topping "He's a Rebel," but credit instead went to The Crystals, who, as per Love, never stepped foot into the "Rebel" recording sessions. It wasn't until 20 years later that Love's own star rose, including gigs on Broadway, in Hollywood, annual performances of her beloved "Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)" on David Letterman's talk show, and, at last, a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction in 2011.

— Lisa Fischer scored a Grammy award, an urban smash and top-20 pop hit with the 1992 single "How Can I Ease the Pain." But solo stardom was fleeting and soon she was back in the background.

With shrinking production budgets, new technology and the increasing use of home studios, getting 20 feet from stardom may be tougher than ever now.

"There used to be more ways for people to interact and work together in one room, experience something face to face with people, as opposed to just being sort of on your own," said Fischer, speaking by phone from Montreal while on tour with the Stones. "You try to go into someone's home where they're recording, or where they're writing. It used to be you would bump into people in a studio or at a gig and talk about,

"I'm doing my record, can you come sing background? That doesn't happen as often. It used to happen a lot more."

Merry Clayton admits she still harbors dreams of solo success and, in the film, tears up when talking about failing to become a star.

But at age 64, she also seems to have come to at least partial terms with what she has, and has not,

accomplished in her career.

"You can be a star, but how long is that going to last?" Clayton asked. "You want longevity in this industry. You don't really want to be a shot away, as they would say.

You don't want to be a shot away. You want to be in the middle of it and you want to thrive throughout the whole journey."

Added director Neville, "I feel like, at the end of the day, they've all struggled with (the lack of stardom), maybe, but they're proud of what they've done, even if there might be some restlessness."

"Hopefully now, they'll get that credit," he said. □



This Jan. 21, 2013 file photo shows singers, from left, Judith Hill, Merry Clayton, Darlene Love, Tata Vega and Lisa Fischer from the film "20 Feet from Stardom" at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival at the Fender Music Lodge in Park City, Utah. The documentary about backup singers also features Mick Jagger, Bruce Springsteen, Bette Midler and Stevie Wonder.

Associated Press

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Actress Johansson sues over French book

PARIS (AP) — Actress Scarlett Johansson is suing a French publishing house over a novel that uses her name and image and explores the challenges of being beautiful.

The JC Lattes publishing house said Friday that a lawsuit was filed last week about Gregoire Delacourt's book "The First Thing We Look At."

JC Lattes spokeswoman Emmanuelle Allibert says the publisher's lawyers are preparing to respond to the court, which will then decide whether to take up the case. Allibert says the book is entirely fiction and is about a character who looks just like Johansson, not Johansson herself. That character is enmeshed in a romance with another lookalike — one modeled after film star Ryan Gosling. Johansson's French lawyer Vincent Toledano said in a statement to The Associated Press that Johansson

is protesting the use of her name and image for "mercantile" purposes, and accuses the book of invading her privacy.

"The freedom of speech she defends as an artist is not being challenged in the lawsuit. However the right of free speech has nothing to do with this purely mercantile conduct," the lawyer said.

The publisher argues that the lawsuit "is contrary" to the idea of the book. The author "only says good things about" Johansson, Allibert said.

Delacourt has had best-sellers, though some critics have skewered "The First Thing We Look At." Le Monde's reviewer said that Delacourt, who works in advertising, "sells us his story like he would sell us shower gel: fake emotions, blurred eroticism, venal humor." Magazine Les Inrocks called it "low-cost literature." □



In this Wednesday, April 11, 2012 file photo, actress Scarlett Johansson arrives at the premiere of 'The Avengers' in Los Angeles. Associated Press

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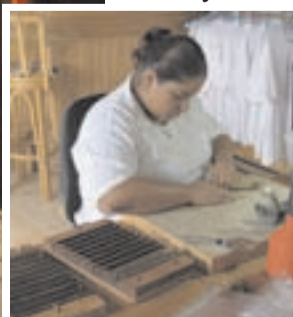


ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a

perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the Westin Resort, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort

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Blowing A Whistle



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
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I'm glad I live in a country with people who are vigilant in defending civil liberties. But as I listen to the debate about the disclosure of two government programs designed to track suspected phone and email contacts of terrorists, I do wonder if some of those who unequivocally defend this disclosure are behaving as if 9/11 never happened - that the only thing we have to fear is government intrusion in our lives, not the intrusion of those who gather in secret cells in Yemen, Afghanistan and Pakistan and plot how to topple our tallest buildings or bring down U.S. airliners with bombs planted inside underwear, tennis shoes or computer printers.

Yes, I worry about potential government abuse of privacy from a program designed to prevent another 9/11 - abuse that, so far, does not appear to have happened. But I worry even more about another 9/11. That is, I worry about something that's already happened once - that was staggeringly costly - and that terrorists aspire to repeat.

I worry about that even more, not because I don't care about civil liberties, but because what I cherish most about America is our open society, and I believe that if there is one more 9/11 - or worse, an attack involving nuclear material - it could lead to the end of the open society as we know it. If there were another 9/11, I fear that 99 percent of Americans would tell their members of Congress: "Do whatever you need to do to, privacy be damned, just make sure this does not happen again." That is what I fear most. That is why I'll reluctantly, very reluctantly, trade off the government using data mining to look for suspicious patterns in phone numbers called and email addresses - and then have to go to a judge to get a warrant to actually look at the content under guidelines set by Congress - to prevent a day where, out of fear, we give government a license to look at anyone, any email, any phone call, anywhere, anytime.

So I don't believe that Edward Snowden, the leaker of all this secret material, is some heroic whistle-blower. No, I believe Snowden is someone who needed a whistle-blower. He needed someone to challenge him with the argument that we don't live in a world any longer where our government can protect its citizens from real, not imagined, threats without using big data - where we still have an edge - under constant judicial review. It's not ideal. But if one more

9/11-scale attack gets through, the cost to civil liberties will be so much greater.

A hat tip to Andrew Sullivan for linking on his blog to an essay by David Simon, the creator of HBO's "The Wire." For me, it cuts right to the core of the issue.

"You would think that the government was listening in to the secrets of 200 million Americans from the reaction and the hyperbole being tossed about," wrote Simon. "And you would think that rather than a legal court order, which is an inevitable consequence of legislation that we drafted and passed, something illegal had been discovered to the government's shame. Nope. ... The only thing new here, from a legal standpoint, is the scale on which the FBI and NSA are apparently attempting to cull anti-terrorism leads from that data. ... I know it's big and scary that the government wants a database of all phone calls. And it's scary that they're paying attention to the Internet. And it's scary that your cellphones have GPS installed. ... The question is not should the resulting data exist. It does. ... The question is more fundamental: Is government accessing the data for the legitimate public safety needs of the society, or are they accessing it in ways that abuse individual liberties and violate personal privacy - and in a manner that is unsupervised. And to that, The Guardian and those who are wailing jeremiads about this pretend-discovery of U.S. big data collection are noticeably silent. We don't know of any actual abuse." We do need to be constantly on guard for abuses. But the fact is, added Simon, that for at least the last two presidencies "this kind of data collection has been a baseline logic of an American anti-terrorism effort that is effectively asked to find the needles before they are planted into haystacks, to prevent even such modest, grass-rooted conspiracies as the Boston Marathon bombing before they occur." To be sure, secret programs, like the virtually unregulated drone attacks, can lead to real excesses that have to be checked. But here is what is also real, Simon concluded: "Those planes really did hit those buildings. And that bomb did indeed blow up at the finish line of the Boston Marathon. And we really are in a continuing, low-intensity, high-risk conflict with a diffuse, committed and ideologically motivated enemy. And, for a moment, just imagine how much bloviating would be wafting across our political spectrum if, in the wake of an incident of domestic terrorism, an American president and his administration had failed to take full advantage of the existing telephonic data to do what is possible to find those needles in the haystacks." And, I'd add, not just bloviating. Imagine how many real restrictions to our beautiful open society we would tolerate if there were another attack on the scale of 9/11. Pardon me if I blow that whistle. □



Sexism's Puzzling Stamina



FRANK BRUNI
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This month the Supreme Court will issue raptly awaited decisions about affirmative action and gay marriage. But what's been foremost in my thoughts isn't race, sexual orientation or our country's deeply flawed handling of both.

It's gender - and all the recent reminders of how often women are still victimized, how potently they're still resented and how tenaciously a musty male chauvinism endures. On this front even more than the others, I somehow thought we'd be further along by now.

I can't get past that widely noted image from a week ago, of the Senate hearing into the epidemic of sexual assault in the military. It showed an initial panel of witnesses: 11 men, one woman. It also showed the backs of some of the senators listening to them: five men and one woman, from a Senate committee encompassing 19 men and seven women in all. Under discussion was the violation of women and how to stop it. And men, once again, were getting more say.

I keep flashing back more than two decades, to 1991. That was the year of the Tailhook incident, in which some 100 Navy and Marine aviators were accused of sexually assaulting scores of women. It was the year of Susan Faludi's runaway best-seller,

"Backlash," on the "war against American women," as the subtitle said. It was when the issue of sexual harassment took center stage in Clarence Thomas' confirmation hearings.

All in all it was a festival of teachable moments, raising our consciousness into the stratosphere. So where are we, fully 22 years later? We're listening to Saxby Chambliss, a senator from Georgia, attribute sexual abuse in the military to the ineluctable "hormone level" of virile young men in proximity to nubile young women.

We're congratulating ourselves on the historic high of 20 women in the Senate, even though there are still four men to every one of them and, among governors, nine men to every woman. I'll leave aside boardrooms; they've been amply covered in Sheryl Sandberg's book tour.

But what about movies? It was all the way back in 1986 that Sigourney Weaver trounced "Aliens" and landed on the cover of Time, supposedly presaging an era of action heroines. But there haven't been so many: Angelina Jolie in the "Tomb Raider" adventures, "Salt" and a few other hectic flicks; Jennifer Lawrence in the unfolding "Hunger Games" serial. Last summer Kristen Stewart's "Snow White" needed a "Huntsman" at her side, and this summer? I see an "Iron Man," a "Man of Steel" and Will Smith, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon and Channing Tatum all shouldering the weight of civilization's future. I see no comparable crew of warrior goddesses.

Heroines fare better on TV, but even there I'm struck by the persistent stereotype of a woman whose career devotion is both seed and flower of a tortured private life. Claire Danes in "Homeland," Mireille Enos in "The Killing," Dana Delany in "Body of Proof" and even Mariska Hargitay in "Law & Order: SVU" all fit this bill.

The idea that professional and domestic concerns can't be

balanced isn't confined to the tube. A recent Pew Research Center report showing that women had become the primary providers in 40 percent of American households with at least one child younger than 18 prompted the conservative commentators Lou Dobbs and Erick Erickson to fret, respectively, over the dissolution of society and the endangerment of children. When Megyn Kelly challenged them on Fox News, they responded in a patronizing manner that they'd never use with a male news anchor.

Title IX, enacted in 1972, hasn't led to an impressive advancement of women in pro sports. The country is now on its third attempt at a commercially viable women's soccer league. The Women's National Basketball Association lags far behind the men's NBA in visibility and revenue.

Even in the putatively high-minded realm of literature, there's a gender gap, with male authors accorded the lion's share of prominent reviews, as the annual VIDA survey documents. Reflecting on that in Salon last week, the critic Laura Miller acutely noted: "There's a grandiose self-presentation, a swagger, that goes along with advancing your book as a Great American Novel that many women find impossible or silly." I congratulate them for that. They let less hot air into their heads. But about the larger picture, I'm mystified. Our racial bigotry has often been tied to the ignorance abetted by unfamiliarity, our homophobia to a failure to realize how many gay people we know and respect. Well, women are in the next cubicle, across the dinner table, on the other side of the bed. Almost every man has a mother he has known and probably cared about; most also have a wife, daughter, sister, aunt or niece as well. Our stubborn sexism harms and holds back them, not strangers. Still it survives. □

Changing Tastes In Argentina Lead To Beef's Decline

SIMON ROMERO

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BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

A thick slab of grass-fed sirloin dripping in its own juices: So many Argentines consider such a feast a birthright to be enjoyed regularly that one president in the 1990s quipped to an American magazine, "Tell your readers, 'Don't come to my country if they're vegetarian.'"

But tastes change, even here.

Beef consumption in this red-meat colossus has decreased so much over the

one in a major newspaper that declared it "the end of a reign."

"We live, at this moment, immersed in shame," the writer Diego Vecino said in a recent 4,000-word magazine article that explored declining beef consumption. "In the last few years, our Argentine national identity has been roughed up as never before," he lamented, in a slightly tongue-in-cheek fashion. "The ritual of the barbecue persists, but in many cases under the kitsch glow of a retro experience."

Americans, who mustered a mere 57.5 pounds by comparison. But Argentina's current level is a pale shadow of its peak: 222 pounds of beef for every man, woman and child, achieved in 1956.

Reasons vary for these dol-drums. Beef prices have surged with inflation, but cattlemen contend that government price controls aimed at preventing domestic beef consumption from falling further have wreaked havoc by making it costly to maintain large herds. Others, eyeing

controls intended to make the meat more affordable, are turning the tide. Indeed, domestic consumption has recovered slightly from a record low in 2011.

But while Argentina has experienced swings in beef consumption in the past, some see the latest drops as evidence of a broader paradigm shift: Many Argentines are simply opting for a more varied diet.

The shift - reflected in a rising demand for foods like poultry, pasta and pizza; a greater awareness of the health risks associated with

were raised in a society so focused on beef, the adjustment was long overdue. "I almost don't eat meat now," said Susana Carfagna, a 61-year-old retiree, as she walked out of a butcher shop with some ground chicken as an alternative to beef burgers. "It's not healthy. I have high cholesterol and need a more balanced diet."

The growth of vegetarian restaurants in Argentina's capital has unfolded at a time of big change - some say upheaval - in the countryside. As recently as 2007, Argentina had about 55.6 million head of cattle, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. That number fell to 48.1 million in 2011, before recovering somewhat this year to an estimated 51.2 million. (That is still more cows than people, given the country's population of more than 40 million.)

Officials have also promoted other types of animal protein, however, reflecting the nation's dependence on agribusiness. "It is much more gratifying to eat some grilled pork than to take Viagra," President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner said in 2010, joking about what she described as the meat's libido-enhancing qualities while announcing subsidies for the pork industry.

For many Argentines, how much beef they eat comes down to another factor: price. In the past three years, coveted cuts of cuadril (rump steaks) have jumped in price almost 90 percent, to about \$5.80 a pound, said Juan Pagano, a butcher in the neighborhood of Colegiales.

"It's unbelievable how the prices have shot up," said Eduardo González, 48, who cleans industrial water tanks for a living. Buying a relatively cheap and tough cut of beef one recent evening at a supermarket, he said he could no longer afford sirloin.

"But I still try to eat beef four times a week; if I did not, I would die!" he said, with a chuckle. "It is fundamental." □



A food seller grills meat outside a butcher shop in Buenos Aires, Argentina, May 24, 2013. Red-meat consumption has decreased so much over the decades in Argentina that the country recently fell from its perch as the world's top per capita consumer of beef. (Mauricio Lima/The New York Times)

decades that the nation recently fell from its perch as the world's top per capita consumer of beef, a title Argentine ranchers are fighting to regain from their tiny neighbor, Uruguay. In another jolt, a study warned that pizzerias could soon outnumber steakhouses in this city.

As if that were not enough to rattle the national psyche, Argentina slipped into 11th place, behind countries like New Zealand and Mexico, in the global ranking of beef exporters this year, prompting solemn reactions including

It is hard to overstate beef's centrality to the Argentine way of life for more than a century. Novels and poems extol the art of cattle ranching on the vast pampas, long a touchstone of national pride. Cafes in this city bulge with diners feasting on steaks washed down with glasses of malbec. At lunchtime, it is still possible to see construction crews preparing slabs of beef on makeshift grills, the smoky smell of this ritual permeating their work sites. Argentines ate about 129 pounds of beef a person last year, far surpassing

China's rising demand for grains over the past decade, say it is simply more profitable to farm soybeans than to raise cattle. "We are witnessing a historic decline in our beef industry," said Ernesto Ambrosetti, chief economist of the Argentine Rural Society, the country's largest farming association. "Now our smaller neighbors, Paraguay and Uruguay, have passed us" in the export rankings. Government officials contend that their policies to lift beef consumption, including export restraints and price con-

eating beef; and even the emergence of an insurgent vegetarian dining scene in Buenos Aires - does not sit well with some Argentines. "Beef consumption is threatened by modern trends of healthy eating, mainly the exaltation of what's natural and ecological, stimulating vegetable consumption," the Argentine Beef Promotion Institute warned in a 2006 report, warily acknowledging a "new age culture and the appearance of cooking fads incorporating other products." For some Argentines who